

Mary Corley Dunn

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Department of Theological Studies
Saint Louis University
3800 Lindell Boulevard
St. Louis, Missouri 63108
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PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Saint Louis University

Professor, Department of Theological Studies	2023-Present
Secondary appointment in Women's and Gender Studies	2018-Present
Director, Center for Research on Global Catholicism	2022-Present

Saint Louis University

Associate Professor, Department of Theological Studies	2018-2023
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Saint Louis University

Assistant Professor, Department of Theological Studies	2008-2018
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AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Primary: History of early modern Christianity

Secondary: Catholicism in France and New France, saints and sanctity, women in the Christian tradition, early modern hospitals, disability studies

General: Theory and method of religious studies

EDUCATION

Harvard University

2008

Ph.D., Department of Religious Studies

Dissertation: "Sainte-Anne-du-Petit-Cap: The Making of an Early Modern Shrine"

A.M., Department of Religious Studies, *with distinction*

Harvard University, Harvard Divinity School

2002

M. T. S.

Harvard University, Harvard Law School

2001

J.D., *cum laude*

Columbia University

1998

B.A., *summa cum laude*

PUBLICATIONS

Books

The Enfants Trouvés of Quebec: 1800-1845, in progress.

Where Paralytics Walk and the Blind See: Stories of Sickness and Disability at the Juncture of Worlds, Princeton University Press, 2022.

- Winner, first place in History, Catholic Media Awards, 2023
- Reviewed by Mark Briens for readingreligion.org
- Podcast for "New Books in Catholic Studies,"

<https://newbooksnetwork.com/where-paralytics-walk-and-the-blind-see>

- Podcast for “Infectious Historians,”
<https://infectioushistorians.com/2023/02/07/disease-and-religion-in-french-canada/>

Intimacies: Intersubjectivity and the Formation of the Religious Subject in the Modern Christian West, edited with Brenna Moore, Indiana University Press, 2020.

“The Cruellest of All Mothers”: *Marie de l’Incarnation, Motherhood, and the Christian Tradition*, Fordham University Press, 2016

- Reviewed by Amy Hollywood for *Church History*
- Reviewed by Peter Goddard for readingreligion.org
- Reviewed by John Conley for *Early Modern Women*
- Reviewed by Marian Ronan for *EqualwRites*
- Reviewed by Stephanie Paulsell for *Spiritus*
- Reviewed by Martha Reineke for *French History*
- Reviewed by Brenna Moore for the *Journal of Religion*
- Reviewed by Vincent Grégoire for *French Studies*
- Reviewed by Marianne Fitzgerald in catholicbooksreview.org
- Reviewed by Matthew Gerber for *Catholic Historical Review*

From Mother to Son: Selected Letters from Marie de l’Incarnation to Claude Martin, Oxford University Press, 2014

- Reviewed by Emma Anderson for the *Canadian Historical Review*
- Reviewed by Susan E. Dinan for *Church History and Religious Culture*

Peer-Reviewed Articles and Review Essays

“Jesuits, Rhetoric, and the Plurisensorium of Martyrdom in Seventeenth-Century New France,” under review with *Journal of Jesuit Studies*.

“The Origin Myth of Religious Studies,” *Body and Religion*, forthcoming.

“Sixteen and Possessed,” *Spiritus: a Journal of Christian Spirituality* 22, no. 2 (Fall 2022): 232-251.

“Playing with Religion: Delight at the Border Between Epistemological Worlds,” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 89, no. 4 (December 2021): 1208-1228.

“The Impossible Irony of Vatican I,” *Harvard Theological Review* 113, no. 1 (January 2020): 138-145.

“Bedside Manners: Sickness and the Jesuit Mission in Early Modern New France,” *Journal of Jesuit Studies* 5, no. 4 (Nov. 2018): 567-585.

“Rethinking Agency after the Relational Turn,” *The Journal of Religion* 97, no. 3 (July 2017): 345-359.

“What Really Happened: Radical Empiricism and the Historian of Religion,” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 84, no. 4 (December 2016): 881-902.

“Neither One Thing nor the Other: Discursive Polyvalence and Representations of Amerindian Women in the Jesuit Relations,” *Journal of Jesuit Studies* 3 (2016): 179-196.

“‘But an Echo’?: Claude Martin, Marie de l’Incarnation, and Female Religious Identity in Seventeenth-Century New France,” *The Catholic Historical Review* 100, no. 3 (Summer 2014): 459-485.

“Mysticism, Motherhood, and Pathological Narcissism? A Kohutian Analysis of Marie de l’Incarnation,” *The Journal of Religion and Health* 52, no. 2 (2013): 642-656.

“‘The Cruellest of All Mothers’: Marie de l’Incarnation, Motherhood, and Christian Discipleship,” *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* 28, no. 1 (2012): 43-62.

“When ‘Wolves Become Lambs’: Hybridity and the ‘Savage’ in the Letters of Marie de l’Incarnation,” *The Seventeenth Century* 27, no. 1 (Spring 2012): 104-120.

“‘A Devotion Which... Distinguishes this People from all Others’: The Cult of Saint Anne and the Making of the Colonial Community in Seventeenth-Century New France,” *Quebec Studies* 51 (Spring/Summer 2011): 3-20.

“The Miracles at Saint-Anne-du-Petit-Cap and Colonial Community Identity,” *Canadian Historical Review* 91.4 (December 2010): 611-635.

Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters

“Lives in Translation: Colonial Saints and their Jesuit Hagiographers,” in *Imaging Jesuit Sanctity*, eds. Alison Fleming and Thomas Worcester, St. Joseph’s University Press, forthcoming.

“Motherhood Transfigured: Between Patristic Norms and Maternal Practice in the Lives of the Saints,” in *Mothers in the Time of the Church Fathers: Maternal Thought and Maternal Practice between Normative Representations and Individual Transgressions*, eds. Giulia Pedrucci and Attilio Mastrocinque, Scienze e Lettere, 2022.

“Mother, Mothers, Motherhood/Christianity/Medieval Times,” in *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception*, De Gruyter, 2021.

“The Occlusion of Intimacy: Uncovering Relationships as a Path Through the Modern Christian West,” co-authored with Brenna Moore, in *Intimacies: Intersubjectivity and the Formation of the Religious Subject in the Modern Christian West*, Indiana University Press, 2020.

“Making Miracles Efficacious: Kateri Tekakwitha, Miraculous Cures, and Relational Networks in Seventeenth-Century France,” in *Intimacies: Intersubjectivity and the Formation of the Religious Subject in the Modern Christian West*, Indiana University Press, 2020.

“Singularity and Universality in *La Vie de la Vénérable Mère Marie de l’Incarnation*,” in *Marie Guyart de l’Incarnation. Singularité et universalité d’une femme de cœur et de raison*, eds. Philippe Roy-Lysencourt, Raymond Brodeur, and Thérèse Nadeau-Lacour, Presses de l’Université Laval, 2019.

Selected Other Publications

“Hospitals, Caregiving, and the Jesuit Classroom,” *Conversations on Jesuit Higher Education*, <https://conversationsmagazine.org/>

“Marie de l’Incarnation,” in *Colonisations: Notre Histoire*, eds. Mélanie Lamotte and Caroline Pichon, Seuil, forthcoming.

“Motherhood at the Hinge,” *The Immanent Frame*, <https://tif.ssrc.org/about/>

Reviews

Vincent Grégoire, *Marie Guyart de l’Incarnation (1599–1672): Le singulier parcours d’une ursuline missionnaire de Tours à Québec*, in *French Studies*.

Bronwen McShea, *Apostles of Empire*, in *Journal of Jesuit Studies*.

Simon Yarrow, *Saints: a Very Short Introduction*, on readingreligion.org.

Lisa Poirier, *Religion, Gender, and Kinship in Colonial New France*, in *Journal of Jesuit Studies*.

Anderson, Emma. *The Death and Afterlife of the North American Martyrs*, in *Horizons*.

Pearson, Timothy. *Becoming Holy in Early Canada*, in *Canadian Historical Review*.

Ana de San Bartolomé: Autobiography and Other Writings, ed. and trans. Darcy Donahue, in *Reformation and Renaissance Review*.

Cameron, Euan. *Enchanted Europe: Superstition, Reason, & Religion, 1250-1750*, in *The Seventeenth Century*.

Rubin, Miri, *Mother of God: A History of the Virgin Mary*, in *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*.

Teaching Other Voices: Women and Religion in Early Modern Europe, eds. Margaret King and Albert Rabil, in *The Seventeenth Century*.

Williams, David. *Saints Alive: Word, Image, and Enactment in the Lives of the Saints*, in *Theological Studies*.

Gregory, Brad. *The Unintended Reformation*, in *Reformation and Renaissance Review*.

Saints: Faith without Borders, eds. Françoise Meltzer and Jaś Elsner, in *Church History*.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC LECTURES

Panelist, “Pius XII and SLU: a Roundtable on the History, Ethics, and Future of the Fraught Pope,” St. Louis University, March 2023 (invited)

“Hagio/graphic Martyrdom,” Dry Bones: Catholic Horror, American Catholic Historical Association, Philadelphia, January 2023 (invited)

Panelist, “Moving Body as Foundational to the Proper Study of Religion: A Response to and Celebration of the work of Sam Gill,” American Academy of Religion, November 2022 (invited)

Panelist, “Jesuits, Rhetoric, and the Plurisensorium of Martyrdom,” American Academy of Religion, November 2022 (organized)

Panelist, “Trailblazers: Navigating the World of Academia as a Woman,” St. Louis Public Library, March 2022

“Jesuit Hagiography in Early Modern New France,” Imagining Jesuit Sanctity, Regis College, Toronto, March 2022 (invited)

“Motherhood Transfigured: Between Patristic Norms and Maternal Practice in the Lives of the Saints,” Mothers in the Time of the Church Fathers, University of Verona, February 2022 (invited)

“Hagiographic Prosthetics in the *Vie de la Mère Catherine de Saint-Augustin*,” Disability and the Catholic Imagination, American Catholic Historical Association, New Orleans, January 2022 (invited)

“Sixteen and Possessed: Catholicism, Healthcare, and the Devil in Early Modern New France,” American Catholic Historical Society, New Orleans, January 2022

“Listening for the Sounds of Possession,” American Academy of Religion, November 2021

“The Juncture of Worlds: Scholarship as a Way of Life and Living as Scholarly Practice,” Rita Casella Jones Lecture, Fordham University, October 2021 (invited)

“Recovery and Redemption at the Hôtel-Dieu de Quebec: Healthcare, Historiography, and the Work of Women Religious in Early Modern New France,” Center for Research on Global Catholicism, St. Louis University, March 2021

“Maternal Abjection: Motherhood, Sacrifice, and the Lives of the Saints,” Maternités mystiques, spirituelles, ascétiques, monastiques, Université Laval, February 2021 (invited)

“The *Actes du très dévot Frère Didace Pelletier* as medium of real presence,” American Academy of Religion, November 2020

“The Profit and Price of Historiography as Encounter,” American Academy of Religion, November 2020

“Stepping Out of Place,” Lived Religion in the Digital Age, Fall Symposium, St. Louis, Missouri, October 2019 (invited)

“The Study of Religion as Subspecies of Play,” Graduate Student Colloquium, St. Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri, April 2019

“Doing ‘Catholic’ History,” American Catholic Historical Association, Chicago, Illinois, January 2019

“Body and Soul in the Early Modern Canadian Hospital,” American Academy of Religion, Denver, Colorado, November 2018

“Hagiographic Prosthetics: Disability in Paul Ragueneau’s *Vie de la Mère Catherine de Saint-Augustin*,” American Academy of Religion, Denver, Colorado, November 2018

“Singularity and Universality in *La Vie de la Vénérable Mère Marie de l’Incarnation*,” Colloque sur Marie de l’Incarnation, Quebec, Canada, October 2018 (invited)

Respondent for discussion of Mary Dunn’s *The Cruellest of All Mothers* (Fordham University Press, 2016), American Historical Association, Denver, Colorado, January 2017 (invited)

“Handicapping Hagiography: Disability in the Lives of the Saints,” American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, Texas, November 2016

Panelist for discussion of Robert A. Orsi’s *History and Presence* (Belknap Press, 2016), Seminar on American Religion, Notre Dame, Indiana, November 2016 (invited)

“Agency and the Early Modern French Nun,” American Catholic Historical Association, Atlanta, Georgia, January 2016

“Negotiating Disability in Early Modern New France,” Renaissance Society of America, Boston, Massachusetts, March 2016

Panelist for discussion of Tyler Roberts’ *Encountering Religion: Responsibility and Criticism After Secularism* (Columbia University Press, 2013), American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, Georgia, November 2015

Panelist for discussion of Martha Reineke’s *Intimate Domain: Desire, Trauma, and Mimetic Theory* (Michigan State University Press, 2014), Colloquium on Violence and Religion, St. Louis, Missouri, July 2015 (invited)

“Amerindian Women in the Jesuit Relations,” Renaissance Society of America, Berlin, Germany, March 2015

“Women and Religion in Public Life,” Chair, Renaissance Society of America, Berlin, Germany, March 2015

“‘Abandoned for His Love’: Marie de l’Incarnation and Narrative Identity,” American Catholic Historical Association, New York, New York, January 2015

“So, What are We Doing Here Anyway?” WOK Conference, Cambridge, Massachusetts, October 2014

“Author Meets Critics: Brad Gregory’s *The Unintended Reformation* (Harvard University Press, 2012),” American Academy of Religion, Chicago, Illinois, November 2012

“But an Echo”?: Claude Martin, Marie de l’Incarnation, and Female Religious Identity in

Seventeenth-Century New France,” American Academy of Religion, San Francisco, California, November 2011

“When ‘Wolves Become Lambs’: Hybridity and the ‘Savage’ in the letters of Marie de l’Incarnation,” American Society of Church History, Boston, Massachusetts, January 2011

“Paul: Feminist or Misogynist,” St. Timothy’s Episcopal Church, St. Louis, Missouri, April 2010

“Gender Equality in Faith Traditions,” panel presentation, St. Louis University, March 2010

“‘The Cruellest of All Mothers’: Marie de l’Incarnation, Christian Discipleship, and Motherhood,” St. Louis College Society of Theologians, Fontbonne University, November 2009

“The Puzzling Case of the Rape of Dinah,” St. Timothy’s Episcopal Church, St. Louis, Missouri, November 2009

HONORS AND AWARDS

Catholic Media Awards, first prize in History for *Where Paralytics Walk and the Blind See*; 2023

NEH Summer Stipend, \$6000; 2022

Big Idea Award, \$19,000; 2021

Beaumont Scholarship Research Award, \$3748.56; 2021

Stolle Fund Award, \$1900; 2021

Research Growth Fund Award, \$28,000; 2019

John Foley Conference Competition, \$30,000; 2018

Excellence in Graduate Mentoring Award Nominee, 2018

Faculty Research Leave Award, St. Louis University; 2016-2017

Mellon Faculty Development Grant, St. Louis University; Summer 2009, Summer 2010, Summer 2015, Summer 2021

Graduate Society Fellowship, Harvard University; 2007-2008

Presidential Fellow, Harvard University; 2003-2008

A.M. degree granted with distinction, Harvard University; 2006

Mellon Fellow, Harvard University; 2003-2004

Phi Beta Kappa, Columbia University; 1998

Highest Departmental Honors in East Asian Studies, Columbia University; 1998

Highest Departmental Honors in South Asian Studies, Columbia University; 1998

Dean’s List, Columbia University; 1994-1998

Rhodes Scholar Finalist; 1997

COURSES TAUGHT

Undergraduate

God Talk: Ultimate Questions

Theological Foundations

Women in the Bible (formerly Mary and Her Sisters)

Virgins, Martyrs, and Heretics (formerly Christian Women)

Mapping the Territory: Theory and Method in Theology and Religious Studies

Senior Research Seminar: Theology and Religious Studies in Context

Graduate

Body, Disease, and Healing in the Christian Tradition
Sensing Religion
Survey of Modern Christianity
Modern Seminar: Intimacies
Theories and Methods

DISSERTATION COMMITTEES

Alec Arnold (member)
Isaac Arten (chair)
Kelly Bratkowski (chair)
Elissa Cutter (member)
Clayton Killion (member)
Yvonne Klein (member)
Ethan Laster (member)

SERVICE AND COMMITTEES

Service to the University and the Department

Scholarship Research Council; 2022-present
Graduate Teaching Mentor; 2022-present
Search Committee Chair, Theology and Racial Justice; 2022
Graduate Studies Committee; 2020-2021
Graduate Placement Officer; 2020-2021
THEO 1600 Revision Committee; 2020-2021
Director of Graduate Studies; 2016-2019
Search Committee Chair, Danforth Endowed Chair; 2018-2019
Departmental Secretary, Department of Theological Studies, St. Louis University; 2011-2012; 2014-2016
Liaison between Department of Theological Studies and Women's Studies Program, St. Louis University; 2009-2015
Undergraduate Committee, Department of Theological Studies, St. Louis University; 2011-2016
Undergraduate Conference Committee, Chair, St. Louis University; 2014-2016
Member of search committee for external Chair of the Department of Theological Studies, 2015
Ph.D. Committee, Department of Theological Studies, St. Louis University; 2015
Chair's Cabinet, Department of Theological Studies, St. Louis University; 2011-2012
Mellon Committee, St. Louis University; 2010-2012
Micah Program Advisory Board, St. Louis University; 2011-2012

Service to the Profession

AAR Graduate Student Award Jury; 2023-present
Ellis Prize Committee, American Catholic Historical Association; 2021-present
Manuscript reviewer, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*
Manuscript reviewer, *Journal of Religious History*
Manuscript reviewer, Louisiana State University Press
Manuscript reviewer, Fordham University Press
Manuscript reviewer, Brill
Manuscript reviewer, University of Notre Dame Press
Manuscript reviewer, University of Nebraska Press

Member, American Academy of Religion
Member, American Catholic Historical Association