

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

Jeffrey Henderson Senior Research Fellowship (Boston University), 2020-2021
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 *Digitizing Rochester Religions*, \$24,384, awarded 2017.

UNIVERSITY-LEVEL TEACHING EXPERIENCE

BOSTON UNIVERSITY

Boston, MA

Associate Professor of Religion
Associate Professor of African American Studies

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
Religion and Hip Hop Culture
Religion in the Digital Age

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 Conjurors. 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

“New Religious Movements and the Internet,” *Oxford Handbook of Digital Religion*, edited by Heidi A. Campbell and Pauline Hope Cheong (Oxford: Oxford University Press), submitted.

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS CONTINUED

ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS CONTINUED

“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.

“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.

CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PANELS

“Therapeutic Mind Power: Healing and Altered States of Consciousness in African American Spiritual Churches,” Pacifica Graduate Institute’s Assessing the Ineffable Conference (virtual meeting), June 2021.

CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PANELS CONTINUED

“Digital (In)Visibility: Notions of Absence/Presence of Africana Religions in the Digital World,” Public Theologies of Technology and Presence Conference (virtual meeting), May 2021.

“Divine Tech-Talk: Africana Religion in the Digital Age,” Panelist, BU’s Lightning Talks, American Academy of Religion, Virtual Annual Conference, December 2020.

“The Imagination of Mysticism,” Moderator, American Academy of Religion, Virtual Annual Conference, December 2020.

“Techno-Futures of Religion,” Respondent, Religion and the Future Graduate Conference, Boston, MA, October 2020.

“Mysticism in Arts and Literature: Experience, Enactment, and Expression,” Moderator, American Academy of Religion, San Diego, CA, November 2019.

“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.

“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.

INVITED TALKS

Chautauqua Lecture Series, “To Boldly Go: Technological Frontiers and the Changing Landscape of American Religions,” Chautauqua Institution, Chautauqua, NY, July 2021.

INVITED TALKS CONTINUED

Rockwell Lecture Series, “The Devil’s Work: Race, Witchcraft, and the Demonization of the Black Lives Matter Movement,” Rice University, Houston, TX (via Zoom), February 2021.

“Diversity Matters: Building an Inclusive Narrative of Spiritualism,” Lily Dale Assembly, Lily Dale, NY (via Zoom), August 2020.

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

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.

INTERVIEWS AND MEDIA PRESENTATIONS

“An Ever-Expanding Frontier: Margarita Simon Guillory Explores Digital Religions,” *The Chautauquan Daily*, July 8, 2021, <https://chqdaily.com/2021/07/an-ever-expanding-frontier-margarita-simon-guillory-explores-digital-religions/>

“Where Tech, Religiosity Intersect: Margarita Simon Guillory to Examine New Faith Practices,” *The Chautauquan Daily*, July 6, 2021, <https://chqdaily.com/2021/07/where-tech-religiosity-intersect-margarita-simon-guillory-to-examine-new-faith-practices/>

INTERVIEWS AND MEDIA PRESENTATIONS CONTINUED

“From Secrecy to #WitchTok: How the Internet is Demystifying Africana Religions,” *The Brink*, November 30, 2020, <https://www.bu.edu/articles/2020/from-secrecy-to-wichtok-how-the-internet-is-demystifying-africana-religions/>.

“African Diaspora Conjuring Practices in Popular Culture,” Podcast, *Shelf Love*, October 4, 2020, <https://shelflovepodcast.com/episodes/season-2/episode-66/066-african-diaspora-conjuring-practices-in-popular-culture/>.

“A Better Future,” *Arts and Sciences Magazine*, Fall 2020, <https://www.bu.edu/cas/arts-sciences/fall-2020/a-better-future/>.

“A Chat with Margarita Guillory about African American Spiritual Churches,” Podcast, *Truth Seekers*, June 21, 2020, <https://www.blogtalkradio.com/truthseekers12/2020/06/21/come-chat-with-margarita-guillory-about-african-american-spiritual-churches>.

“CAS Professor Lectures on Overlooked African American Contribution to Spiritualism,” *The Daily Free Press*, February 8, 2019, <https://dailyfreepress.com/2019/02/08/bu-professor-lectures-on-forgotten-african-american-contributions-to-spiritualism/>.

“The Witches of Baltimore: Black Women Leaving Christianity Embracing African Witchcraft in Digital Covens,” *The Atlantic*, November 5, 2018, <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2018/11/black-millennials-african-witchcraft-christianity/574393/>.

“African American Spiritual Churches,” Podcast, *The Religious Studies Project*, January 29, 2018, <https://www.religiousstudiesproject.com/transcript/african-american-spiritual-churches-transcript/>.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Editorial Board Member: *Magic, Ritual, and Witchcraft*, January 2021-Present.

Editorial Board Member: *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*, September 2020-Present.

Editorial Board Member: *Correspondences: Journal for the Study of Esotericism*, March 2020-Present.

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

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP CONTINUED

ACADEMIC SERVICE CONTINUED

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

Executive Board Committee Member: Society for the Study of Black Religion, March 2020-Present.

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