

Mary Elizabeth Hess

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Education

PhD, 1998, The Program in Religion and Education, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts. Dissertation: *Media Literacy in Religious Education: Engaging Popular Culture to Enhance Religious Experience*. Committee: Mary C. Boys, (Chair), M. Brinton Lykes, H. John McDargh.

MTS, 1992, Theological Studies, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

BA, 1985, American Studies, *cum laude*, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, "with distinction in the major."

Experience

Patrick and Barbara Keenan Visiting Professor of Religious Education, University of St. Michael's College, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON. 2016 – present.

Professor of Educational Leadership, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN. 2014 – present.

Chair, Leadership Division, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN. 2014 – 2015.

Associate Professor of Educational Leadership, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN. 2006-2014.

Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN. 2000 – 2006.

Member, Web Resource Steering Committee, Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion. 2012 – present.

Networking Coordinator, Religious Education Association. 2014 – present.

President, Religious Education Association: An Association of Professors, Practitioners and Researchers in Religious Education. 2010-2011.

Director, Wabash Pre-Tenure Theological School Faculty Workshop. 2009 – 2010.

Member, Editorial Board, Religion and Education in the Public Sphere, 2010 – present.

Member, Editorial Board, Religious Education, 2002 – present.

Member, Editorial Board, Journal of Media and Religion. 2001- present.

Member, Editorial Board, Journal of Religious Leadership, 2003 – 2005.

Member, Editorial Board, Journal of Lutheran Ethics (online). 2001-2006.

Member, International Study Commission on Media, Religion and Culture. 1997-2005.

Member, Executive Committee, Association of Professors, Practitioners and Researchers in Religious Education, 2000 – 2003, and again from 2009 to 2012.

Associate Editor, Religious Education. 1999-2002.

Lecturer in Religious Education, Institute of Religious Education and Pastoral Ministry, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA. 1997-2000.

Visiting Lecturer in Religious Education, Yale Divinity School, New Haven, CT. Fall 1999.

Post-doctoral Research Fellow and Director, Religious Education and the Challenge of Media Culture Project, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA. 1997-2000.

Consultant, Master's Program, Institute of Religious Education and Pastoral Ministry, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA. 1994-1997.

Research Assistant, Public Conversations Project, Cambridge, MA. 1991-1992.

Media Coordinator, Cambridge Forum, Cambridge, MA. 1990-1991.

Ohio Chapter Director, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, Washington, DC. 1989-1990.

Communications Director to the First Lady, The Governor's Committee, Columbus, OH. 1987-1989.

Director, Adolescent Programming, The National Assault Prevention Center, Columbus, OH. 1986-1987.

Publications

Books:

Teaching Reflectively in Theological Contexts: Promises and Contradictions. Mary E. Hess and Stephen D. Brookfield, editors. Malabar, FL: Krieger Publishing, 2008.

Medios y Creencias: Perspectivas Culturales del Cristianismo en el Entorno Mediático. Mary Hess, Peter Horsfield, Adán Medrano y Juan Carlos Henriúquez. Translated by Elivira Maldonado. Mexico City: Universidad Iberoamericana; Plaza y Valdéz, S. A. de C. V., 2007.

Engaging Technology in Theological Education: All That We Can't Leave Behind. Mary E. Hess. New York: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, 2005.

Belief in Media: Cultural Perspectives on Media and Christianity. Mary Hess, Peter Horsfield, Adán Medrano, editors. Burlington, VT: Ashgate Publishing Company, 2004.

Media literacy and religious education: Engaging popular culture to enhance religious experience. Dissertation written in the PhD program in Religion and Education, Boston College, March 1998. Available via UMI Dissertation Services.

Chapters in edited books:

"Teaching and learning comparative theology with millennial students," in *Comparative Theology in the Millennial Classroom*, edited by Mara Brecht and Reid B. Locklin, Routledge, 2016.

Entries on "Mary Boys," "Hill Monastic and Manuscript Library," and "St. John's Bible" in the *Encyclopedia of Christian Education*, edited by George Kurian and Mark Lamport, Rowman&Littlefield, 2015.

Interreligious Learning and Teaching: A Christian Rationale for Transformative Praxis, by Kristin Lagen with Mary E. Hess and Christy Lohr Sapp, Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2014.

"Digital storytelling: Empowering feminist and womanist faith formation with young women," in *Media, Religion and Gender*, edited by Mia Lövheim, Routledge, 2013, pp. 169-182.

“Media ethics and religion,” in *Religion and Ethics*, edited by Paul Myhre, St. Mary’s Press, 2013, pp. 48-64.

“Learning the Bible in the 21st century: Lessons from *Harry Potter* and vampires,” in *Teaching the Bible in the Parish (and Beyond)*, edited by Laurie Jungling. Minneapolis, MN: Lutheran University Press, 2011.

“Preface,” in *Common Worship in Theological Education*, edited by Todd E. Johnson and Siobhan Garrigan. Eugene, OR: Pickwick Publications, 2010.

“From ICT to TCI: Communicative theology(ies), pedagogy and web 2.0,” in *Kommunikative Theologie: Zugänge – Auseinandersetzungen – Ausdifferenzierungen*, edited by Matthias Scharer, Bradford E. Hinze, and Bernd Jochen Hilberath. Wien: Lit Verlag GmbH & Co., 2010, pp. 130 – 149.

“Responding to the challenges of religious storying in a digital age: Building new opportunities through feautor.org” in *Erzählen - Reflexionen im Zeitalter der Digitalisierung / Storytelling – Reflections in the Age of Digitalization*, herausgegeben von Yvonne Gächter, Heike Ortner, Claudia Schwarz und Andreas Wiesinger, unter Mitarbeit von Christine Engel, Theo Hug, Stefan Neuhaus und Thomas Schröder. Innsbruck: Innsbruck University Press, 2008, pp. 112-126.

“Listening and learning to teach in theological contexts: An appreciative inquiry model,” in *Revitalizing Practice: Collaborative Models for Theological Faculties*, edited by Malcolm Warford. New York: Peter Lang, 2008, pp. 67-97.

“Go and make learners! Supporting transformation in education and evangelism,” in *Christian Education as Evangelism*, edited by Norma Cook Everist. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2007, pp. 101-111.

“Media literacy,” in the *Encyclopedia of Religion, Communication and Media*, edited by Daniel A. Stout. New York: Routledge, 2006, pp. 245 – 250.

“L’éducation religieuse dans le contexte de la culture médiatique: la pratique de l’imagination,” in *Témoigner de sa foi, dans les médias, aujourd’hui*, sous la direction de Guy Marchessault, Ottawa: Les Presses de l’Université d’Ottawa, 2005, pp. 351-371.

“Growing faithful children in media cultures,” in *The Ministry of Children’s Education*, Professors of Christian Education at the ELCA Seminaries, Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2004, pp 126-150.

“The Bible and popular culture: Engaging sacred text in a world of ‘others,’” in *New Paradigms in Bible Study*, edited by Robert Fowler, Edith Blumhofer, and Fernando Segovia, New York: T & T Clark International, 2004, pp. 209-226.

“Practicing attention in media culture,” in *Mediating Religion: Conversations in Media, Religion and Culture*, edited by Jolyon Mitchell and Sophia Marriage, New York: T&T Clark/Continuum, 2003, pp. 133-142.

“Rich treasure in jars of clay,” in *The Conviction of Things Not Seen: Worship and Ministry in the 21st Century*, edited by Todd E. Johnson. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2002, pp. 123-140.

“Media literacy as a support for the development of a responsible imagination in religious community,” in *Religion and Popular Culture: Studies on the Interaction of Worldviews*, edited by Daniel Stout and Judith Buddenbaum. Ames: Iowa State University Press, 2001, pp. 289-311.

Journal articles:

“Learning with digital technologies: Privileging persons over machines,” *Journal of Moral Theology*, Vol. 1, #4, Winter 2015, pp. 131-150.

“Learning amidst transforming traditions,” in *Theological Education*, Vol. 49, #1, Winter 2014, pp. 9-16.

“A new culture of learning: What are the implications for theological educators,” in *Teaching Theology and Religion*, Vol. 17, #3, July 2014, pp. 227-232.

“A new culture of learning: Digital storytelling and faith formation,” in *Dialog*, Vol. 53, No. 1, Spring 2014, pp. 12-22.

“Loving the questions: Finding food for the future of theological education in the Lexington Seminar,” in *Theological Education*, Vol. 48, 2013, No. 1, pp. 69-89.

“A new culture of learning: Implications of digital culture for communities of faith,” in *Communication Research Trends*, Vol. 32, No. 3, 2013, pp. 13-20.

“The pastoral practice of Christian hospitality as presence in Muslim-Christian engagement: Contextualizing the classroom,” in *Theological Education*, Vol. 47, No. 2, 2013, pp. 7-12.

“Mirror neurons, the development of empathy, and digital story telling,” *Religious Education*, Vol. 107, No. 4, July-September 2012, pp. 401-414.

“Life on screen and other musings on faith, food and media,” *Word & World*, Vol. 32, No. 3, Summer 2012, pp. 252-258.

"Learning religion and religiously learning amid global cultural flows," *Religious Education*, Vol. 106, No. 4, July-September 2011, pp. 360-377.

"Learning religion and religiously learning: Musings on a theme," *Religious Education*, Vol. 105, No. 3, May-June 2010, pp. 234-237.

"What difference does it make? E-learning and faith community," *Word & World*, Vol. 30, No. 3, Summer 2010, pp. 281 – 290.

"Resisting the human need for enemies, or what would Harry Potter do?," *Word & World*, Vol. 28, No. 1, Winter 2008, pp. 47 – 56.

"From Crawfordsville to Saint Paul: Promoting reflections on teaching and learning as part of a seminary's institutional culture," with David J. Lose and Matthew L. Skinner, *Teaching Theology and Religion*, Vol. 10, No. 3, July 2007, pp. 178-179.

"What difference does it make? Digital technology in the theological classroom," *Theological Education*, Vol. 41, No. 1, 2006, pp. 77-91.

"Possible new futures for our journal on the world wide web," *Religious Education*, Vol. 100, No. 1, Winter 2005, pp. 78-88.

"Better off for all that we let in: Being Catholic while teaching at a Lutheran Seminary," *Listening: Journal of Religion and Culture*, Vol. 39, No. 3, Fall 2004, pp. 441-451.

"Transforming traditions: Taking popular culture seriously in religious education," *Religious Education*, Vol. 99, No. 1, Winter 2004, pp. 1-9.

"Searching for paradise: Libraries and media culture in the theological context," *ATLA Proceedings*, 2003, pp. 127-139.

"Marriage on TV," *Word&World*. Vol. XXIII, No. 1, Winter 2003, pp. 48-56.

"All that we can't leave behind: Pedagogy and theology in cyberspace," *Teaching Theology and Religion*. Vo. 5, No. 1, February 2002, pp. 30-38.

"Collaborating with people to study 'the popular': Implementing participatory action research strategies in religious education," *Religious Education*, Vol. 96, No. 3, Summer 2001, pp. 271-293.

"From trucks carrying messages to ritualized identities: Implications of the postmodern paradigm shift in media studies for religious educators," *Religious Education*, Vol. 94, No. 3, Summer 1999, pp. 273-288.

“A current snapshot of media literacy in relation to religious education,”
Connections: The Newsletter of the Association for Communication in Theological Education, Vol. 6 , #2, Spring 1999.

“White religious educators and unlearning racism: can we find a way?” *Religious Education*, Vol. 93, No. 1, Winter 1998, pp. 114-129.

“The social construction of knowledge, media culture, and the creation of border communities in religious education.” *Religion & Education*, Vol. 23, No. 1, Spring 1996.

Book reviews:

Religious Education Research Through a Community of Practice: Action Research and the Interpretive Approach. Edited by Julia Ipgrave, Robert Jackson and Kevin O’Grady. Reviewed in *Teaching Theology and Religion*, Vol. 15, #1, January 2012, pp. 84-86.

Journal Keeping: How to Use Reflective Writing for Learning, Teaching, Professional Insight and Positive Change, Dannelle D. Stevens and Joanne E. Cooper, Stylus Publishing, 2009. Reviewed in *Teaching Theology and Religion*, Vol. 13, #4, October 2010, pp. 384-385.

Media Violence and Christian Ethics, Jolyon Mitchell. Cambridge University Press, 2007. Reviewed in *The Expository Times*, Vol. 120, #9, 2009, pp. 441-442.

Nurturing Child and Adolescent Spirituality: Perspectives from the World’s Religious Traditions, edited by Karen Marie Yust, Aostre N. Johnson, Sandy Eisenberg Sasso, and Eugene C. Roehlkepartain. Reviewed in *Interpretation*, Vol. 61, #3, July 2007, pp. 328-330.

The Mediated Spirit, Peter Horsfield. Melbourne, Australia: The Uniting Church in Australia, 2002. Reviewed in *Religious Education*, Vol. 99, #2, Spring 2004, 206-207.

How the Way We Talk Can Change the Way We Work, Robert Kegan and Lisa Lahey, San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2001. Reviewed in *Journal of Religious Leadership*, Vol. 1, #1, Spring 2002.

Web Teaching Guide: A Practical Approach to Creating Course Web Sites, Sarah Horton. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2000. Reviewed in *Teaching Theology and Religion*, Vol. 5, No. 1, February 2002, p. 63.

The Child in Christian Thought, edited by Marcia Bunge. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001. Reviewed in *Word & World*, Fall 2001, p. 440-442.

Caminemos con Jesús: Toward a Hispanic/Latino Theology of Accompaniment, Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1995. Reviewed in *Religious Education*, Fall 1999, 472-473.

Popular press:

“Live together virtually,” co-written with Mark Vitalis Hoffman, *The Lutheran*, August 2015, pp. 14-15.

“And the Word went viral: Finding God at the intersection of Scripture and popular media,” in *America*, July 21-28, 2014.

“Living faith in a media world,” *Lifelong Faith*, Vol. 2.3, Fall 2008.

“Media and violence: What’s a person of faith to do?” *Lutheran Woman Today*, Vol. 22, #2, March 2008, pp. 14 – 17.

“Our hearts are restless: Living in media culture,” *Clergy Journal*, Vol. LXXXIII, No. 1, pp. 14-15.

Curricula:

TeenCAP: An Assault Prevention Curriculum for Teens. National Assault Prevention Center, Columbus, OH. 1987.

Electronic resources:

Tensegrities. A weblog, published from March 2003 to the present, <http://www.religioused.org/tensegrities>.

Storyingfaith.org. A website that explores digital storytelling as a form of faith formation. 2011 – present.

Feautor.org. Member of the leadership collaborative and founder. 2008 – 2012.

Mary Elizabeth Hess, a professional website, 2000 – present. meh.religioused.org.

Teaching

STM5910: Adaptive Action, Faith and Learning: Leading Towards Transformation; applicable to multiple graduate degree programs at Seattle University, July 18-22, 2016.

DM6063: Women Mystics and Leadership in a Complex World, Doctor of Ministry Program, San Francisco Theological Seminary, June 13-17, 2016.

DMEL6000: Leading Adaptive Action in Communities of Faith, Advanced Pastoral Leadership Program, San Francisco Theological Seminary, September 17-19, 2015.

TMPS7141.01: Spirituality in a Digital Age, School of Theology and Ministry, Boston College, July 2015.

Kairos: Teaching and Learning the Bible with Adults, co-taught with Professor Richard Nysse, Luther Seminary, June 2015.

STMM593: Gospel and global media cultures, in the School of Theology and Ministry, Seattle University, July 2013 and 2015.

Two day retreat on "Lectio, Visio, and Audio Divina: The Landscape Inhabited by Young Adults and Implications for learning and formation," for the NAPCC Formator's (Capuchin Franciscan) conference, 19-21 October 2014.

SG0601: Learning Leaders, Formation and Discipleship, Spring 2015.

CG0525: Congregational caring and formation, Luther Seminary, Fall 2014.

EL4535: Faith education and new media, Luther Seminary, Fall 2014.

STMM5910: Education and Media Evangelization, in the School of Theology and Ministry, Seattle University, July 2014.

PTHM 468 02A: Digital storytelling and communities of faith: Resources and strategies for ministry in a media culture, School of Theology / Seminary, St. John's University, June 2014.

DM6023: Leading adaptive action in communities of faith, in the DMIN program at San Francisco Theological Seminary, June 2014.

Teaching and social media in theology and religion, Wabash Pre-conference Workshop, American Academy of Religion, 22 November 2013, Baltimore, MD.

DM6055: Gospel and global media cultures, in the DMIN program at San Francisco Theological Seminary, June 2013.

LTSG4.400: Religion and media keystone course (the introductory course to a new MA degree in Religion and Media), Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, August 2012.

M625: Gospel, media cultures and ministry, a DMIN course in the program at McCormick Seminary, June 2012.

EL3541: Learning in the presence of other faiths. First taught Fall 2011.

Kairos: Preaching and teaching to a new generation, co-taught with Dr. Andrew Root, Luther Seminary, November 9 - 11, 2009.

Member of the leadership team, "Reflecting on the Pedagogy of Online Theological Education," a Wabash Center conference, Indianapolis, IN, October 9-11, 2009.

IC2643: Gospel and global media cultures, Luther Seminary. First offered fall of 2009.

IC2642: Teaching and learning the Bible with adults, Luther Seminary. Repeatedly offered, 2008 – present.

Lay school: Making faith sense in a time of election, co-taught with Dr. Gary Simpson, Luther Seminary, Fall 2008.

iSeminary: Exploring new vistas. Co-taught twice with Sebastian Mahfood at the ATS Biennial Meeting, June 22, 23, 2008, Atlanta, GA.

Digital technologies in theological education: Issues and possibilities. A Canadian colloquium sponsored by the United Church of Canada. Toronto, Ontario, October 19-20, 2007.

Kairos: Multimedia and computer resources for ministry, co-taught with Luther faculty, Luther Seminary, June 26 – 30, 2006.

Teaching in a Tech-infused World, a workshop presented to the upper midwest regional meeting of the SBL. Co-taught with Dr. Richard Nysse, St. Paul, MN, March 31, 2006.

Teaching and the Web. A full-day workshop sponsored by the CARS at the SBL. Co-taught with Dr. Mary Hinkle in November of 2003 and with Dr. Richard Nysse in November of 2004.

Kairos: Leading in a postmodern world, Luther Seminary, June 21 – 25, 2004.

Technological Resources Workshop. Presented to the Hispanic Theological Initiative Summer Program, Princeton, NJ, July 2004, July 2006.

EL3539: Christian education and dismantling racism, Luther Seminary. Repeatedly offered, 2006 – present.

EL4522: Foundations of educational leadership, Luther Seminary. Repeatedly offered, 2003 – present.

EL3528: Adult development and Christian life, Luther Seminary. Repeatedly offered, 2003 – present.

CL8530: Gospel and cultures, Luther Seminary. Repeatedly offered, 2002-present.

CYF4515: Children, youth and families in the church and its mission. Repeatedly offered, 2006 – 2007.

CYF4510: Ministry with children, youth and families. Repeatedly offered, 2005 – 2007.

Lay school: Faith goes to the movies (learning and leading through film), co-taught with Luther faculty, Luther Seminary, September 23, 2004.

EL3530: Religious education in relation to creation, Luther Seminary. Repeatedly offered, 2002-present.

EL3517: Media and technology in parish education, Luther Seminary. Repeatedly offered, 2002-present.

Kairos: Proactive ministry in a media culture, Luther Seminary, July 8 – 12, 2002.

Kairos: Computer resources for church leaders, Luther Seminary. Taught collaboratively with Rev. Craig Boehlke, Dr. Jim Boyce, Dr. Dick Nysse, Jim Dudley, Rev. Jack Fortin, Barbara Gaiser, Jim Rafferty, June 10 – 14, 2002.

PT800: Nurturing Catholic identity in a media culture, University of St. Thomas, Murray Institute, St. Paul, MN. Summer 2001.

EL4515: Proactive ministry in a media culture, Luther Seminary. Repeatedly offered, 2001 – present.

EL1515: Introduction to Christian education, Luther Seminary. Repeatedly offered, 2000 – present.

EL3520: Parish adult education, Luther Seminary. Repeatedly offered, 2000 – present.

IC3610: Exercises in biblical theology, co-taught with Dr. Arland Hultgren, Luther Seminary, Fall 2000, co-taught with Dr. Sarah Henrich, Luther Seminary, Fall 2001.

Member, staff team, 2000 Wabash Workshop on Teaching and Learning. Summers of 2000 and 2001, Claremont, CA.

Director, Faith and New Media Seminar, August 2000, Boston College, Boston, MA.

TH914.01: Engaging the construction of race, class and gender in communities of faith, Institute of Religious Education and Pastoral Ministry, Boston College. Spring of 2000.

TH690.01: Media literacy and religious education, Institute of Religious Education and Pastoral Ministry, Boston College. Fall of 1997, Fall of 1998, Fall of 1999.

Rel978a: Proactive ministry in a mass media culture: Pastoral responses for communities of faith, Yale Divinity School, Fall of 1999.

Affiliations

Religious Education Association
Catholic Theological Society of America
American Academy of Religion
Association of Practical Theology
National Association for Media Literacy Education
International Seminar on Religious Education and Values