

CURRICULUM VITAE  
MARY E. HESS

A. **BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

1. **PERSONAL**

Mary E. Hess  
1993 Lincoln Avenue  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55105  
United States  
mhess@religioused.org

2. **DEGREES**

PhD / 1998 / Boston College / Religion and Education  
*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 / Harvard University / Theological Studies  
BA / 1985 / Yale University / American Studies, *cum laude*, "with distinction in the major"

3. **EMPLOYMENT**

***Current***

Professor of Educational Leadership  
Luther Seminary  
Promoted to Full Professor in 2014  
Tenured and promoted to Associate Professor in 2006  
Began at Assistant Professor in 2000  
Affiliated faculty at Seattle University School of Theology and Ministry, and San Francisco Theological Seminary

***Previous***

2016-2017 Academic Year / Patrick and Barbara Keenan Visiting Chair in Religious Education, University of St. Michael's College, University of Toronto  
1997-2000 / Post-doctoral Research Fellow and Director / Religious Education and the Challenge of Media Culture Project / Boston College  
1997-2000 / Lecturer in Religious Education / Institute of Religious Education and Pastoral Ministry / Boston College  
Fall 1999 / Visiting Lecturer in Religious Education / Yale Divinity School  
1994 - 1997 / Consultant / Master's Program / Institute of Religious Education and Pastoral Ministry, Boston College  
1991 - 1992 / Research Assistant / Public Conversations Project, Cambridge, MA  
1990 - 1991 / Media Coordinator / Cambridge Forum, Cambridge, MA  
1989 - 1990 / Director / Ohio Office of the National Rails to Trails Conservancy, Washington, DC  
1987 - 1989 / Communications Director / Office of the First Lady of Ohio  
1986 - 1987 / Director of Adolescent Programming / National Assault Prevention Center

4. **HONOURS**

2011 / Established Scholar Research Award Honorable Mention, "Digital Storytelling as a Form of Faith Formation," National Association for Media Literacy Education  
 2005 – 2008 / Lexington Seminar Academic Leadership Mentoring Project (one of four faculty chosen from across the ATS, the only woman among them)  
 1999 / Felton Media Literacy Scholar  
 1995 / Doctoral Student Prize / APPRE  
 1985 / Fenmore Seton Award, Yale University

5. **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND ACTIVITIES**

2018 to present / Member / Faculty Development Advisory Committee, Association of Theological Schools  
 2017 to 2019 / National Advisory Council of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men's Institutes  
 2012 to 2017 / Member / Publications Board / Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion  
 2012 – present / Associate Member / International Seminar on Religious Education and Values  
 2010 - 2011 / President / REA:APPRRE  
 2011 – present / Member / National Association for Media Literacy Education  
 2009 – 2010 / Director / Pre-Tenure Workshop for Theological School Faculty / Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion  
 2008 – present / Consultant / Wabash Center  
 2003 – 2005 / Member, Editorial Board, *Journal of Religious Leadership*  
 2002 – present / Member / Editorial Board, *Religious Education*  
 2001 – present / Member / Editorial Board, *Journal of Media and Religion*  
 2001 – 2006 / Member / Editorial Board, *Journal of Lutheran Ethics*  
 2000 – 2003 / Member / Executive Board of APPRE  
 1998 – present / Member / Catholic Theological Society of America  
 1997 - 2005 / Member / International Study Commission on Media, Religion and Culture  
 1996 – present / Member / Religious Education Association

B. **ACADEMIC HISTORY**

1. **RESEARCH ENDEAVOURS**

Current research continues to focus on the intersections of media, theology, and cultures. An offshoot of that project interrogates the ways in which socialization into processes of racialization in the US interferes with nurturing authentic Christian faith. A further branch of that inquiry has focused on Christian mystics, contemplative practices, and the resources present in that stream of research for adaptive action. A separate branch of inquiry is exploring the ways in which economic structures and the social imaginary in the US has collapsed human *being* into a sole concern with human *doing*.

Previous research projects included an exploration of open source religious resource creation and publication through *Feautor.org*, an exploration of conceiving of theological

education as a missional apostolate, and an analysis of the implications of digital tools for pedagogical innovation in theological education.

2. **RESEARCH AWARDS** (grants, contracts, fellowships), including:
  - 2014 – 2015 / Wabash Center / Developing Your Craft: Creativity in the Formation of the Religious Education Scholar
  - 2014-2015 / Wabash Center / Mindfulness as a Pedagogical Resource for Mid Career Scholars
  - 2011 – 2012 / Association of Theological Schools / Christian Hospitality and Pastoral Practices in a Multi-faith Society
  - 2011 – 2012 / Wabash Center / Deepening Our Work Together: How New Theological Work Should/Could Reshape Our Pedagogies with Regard to Engaging Racism
  - 2009 – 2010 / AAR&Luce / Seminar in Theologies of Religious Pluralism and Comparative Theology
  - 2006 / An anonymous foundation / Open Source Religious Resources: Part two
  - 2005 / An anonymous foundation / Open Source Religious Resources: Part one
  - 2004 – 2006 / Wabash Center / The Seminary as Teaching Apostolate
  - 2001 / Lilly Endowment / Faculty Technology Grant
  - 1997 – 1999 / An anonymous foundation / Religious Education and the Challenge of Media Culture

C. **SCHOLARLY AND PROFESSIONAL WORK** (this is a selective list)

1. Books (sole or joint author)
  - *Create, Share, Believe: Storying Faith in a Post-Church World*, forthcoming.
  - *Creating a White Anti-Racist Identity: Practical Hope for Racial Change*. With Stephen Brookfield, forthcoming from Stylus, 2020.
  - *Engaging Technology in Theological Education: All That We Can't Leave Behind*. Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, New York, 150 pages, 2005
2. Books (sole or joint editor)
  - *Teaching Reflectively in Theological Contexts: Promises and Contradictions*. Primary editor, along with Stephen D. Brookfield. Krieger Publishing, Malabar, FL, 267 pages, 2008
  - *Belief in Media: Cultural Perspectives on Media and Christianity*. Joint editor along with Peter Horsfield, and Adán Medrano. Ashgate Publishing Company, Burlington, VT, 236 pages, 2004 (this book was translated into Spanish and appeared in 2007 from Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico City, Mexico)
3. Articles in peer-reviewed journals.
  - "Adaptive action as a form of reflective practice in pastoral leadership," *Reflective Practice: Formation and Supervision in Ministry*, Vol. 38, 2018, pp. 10 – 24.
  - "Exploring the epistemological challenges underlying civic engagement by religious communities," *The Good Society*, Vol. 26, No

- “White religious educators resisting white fragility: Lessons from mystics,” *Religious Education*, Vol. 112, #1, Winter 2017, pp. 46-57.
- “Learning with digital technologies: Privileging persons over machines,” *Journal of Moral Theology*, Vol. 4, #1, 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.
- “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.

- “White religious educators and unlearning racism: can we find a way?” *Religious Education*, Vol. 93, No. 1, Winter 1998, pp. 114-129.
4. Other articles, and chapters in multi-author volumes.
- “Storying faith: The promises and contradictions of new media in Catholic religious education,” in M. T. Buchanan and A.-M. Gellel (eds.), *Global Perspectives on Catholic Religious Education in Schools*, Springer, 2019.
  - “Pursuing racial justice in the US: What religious educators need to learn from the #blacklivesmatter movement,” in *Values, Human Rights, and Religious Education*, edited by Jeff Astley, Leslie J. Francis, and David Lankshear, Peter Lang, 2018, pp. 1-17.
  - “Using digital media and storytelling to unearth racism and galvanize action,” in *Teaching Race: How to Help Students Unmask and Challenge Racism*, edited by Stephen D. Brookfield, Jossey-Bass, 2018.
  - “Learning practices for people of faith,” in *United Against Racism: Churches for Change*, edited by The National Council of Churches of Christ. Friendship Press, 2018, pp. 140-147.
  - “Gameful learning and theological understanding: New cultures of learning in communities of faith,” in *Authority and Leadership. Values, Religion, Media*, edited by Míriam Díez Bosch, Paul Soukup S. J., Josep Lluís Micó Sanz, Daniella Zsupan-Jerome. Blanquerna School of Communication and International Relations Facultat de Comunicació i Relacions Internacionals Blanquerna, 2017.
  - “Designing Curricular Approaches for Interfaith Competency or Why Does Learning How to Live in a “Community of Communities” Matter?,” in *Teaching for a Multifaith World*, edited by Eleazar Fernandez, Pickwick, 2017.
  - “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 Largen 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 Lövhelm, 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

## 5. Book reviews

- *Theological Reflection Across Religious Traditions: The Turn to Reflective Believing*.
- Edward Foley. Lanham: Rowman&Littlefield, 2015. Reviewed in *Religious Education*, Vol. 112, #2, 2017, pp. 192-193.
- *Digital Identity and Everyday Activism: Sharing Private Stories with Networked Publics*. Sonja Vivienne. Palgrave Macmillan Springer, 2016. Reviewed in *Reflective Teaching* (the Wabash review section), <https://www.wabashcenter.wabash.edu/print-book-review-as-pdf/?id=70415>
- *Knowledge Games: How Playing Games Can Solve Problems, Create Insight, and Make Change*. Karen Schrier. Johns Hopkins University Press. Reviewed in *Reflective Practice* (the Wabash review section), <https://www.wabashcenter.wabash.edu/print-book-review-as-pdf/?id=70319>
- *Mission on the Road to Emmaus: Constants, Context and Prophetic Dialogue*. Cathy Ross and Stephen Bevans, eds. SCM Press, 2015. Reviewed in *The Expository Times*, March 2016.
- *Connected Toward Communion: The Church and Social Communication in the Digital Age*. Daniella Zsupan-Jerome. Liturgical Press, 2014. Reviewed in *Interpretation*, 2015.
- *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.