

## Curriculum Vitae

Jennifer Scheper Hughes

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### Areas of Specialization

Historical and cultural study of Latin American and Latino religions, including conquest, mission, conversion, syncretism, indigenous Christianity. History of Religions. History of modern Christianity. Material religion, material culture (theory of the object) and religion and art, especially the religious image. Affective approaches to the study of religion, religion and emotion. Cultural approaches to the study of religion (ethnography). Religion, catastrophe and disease.

### Education

**Graduate Theological Union**, Berkeley, CA with affiliated studies and teaching at UC Berkeley  
Ph.D. October 2005, Interdisciplinary Study of Religion

**Harvard University, Divinity School**, Cambridge, MA  
Master of Divinity, 1996

**University of Cape Town**, Cape Town, South Africa  
Post-graduate study in African Christianity, Department of Religion, 7/93-5/94

**University of California**, Santa Cruz, CA  
B.A. Latin American Studies, Minor in History, 1992. Highest Honors.

### Professional History and Teaching Experience

**University of California, Riverside, Department of History**  
*Associate Professor*, July 2012-

**University of California, Riverside, Department of Religious Studies**  
*Associate Professor*, July 2012  
*Assistant Professor*, July 1, 2006-

**Mt. Holyoke College, Department of Religion**, South Hadley, MA  
*Visiting Assistant Professor*, July 2005- June 2006

**University of California, Department of History**, Berkeley, CA  
*Graduate Student Instructor*, "Colonial Latin American History," Fall 2004 (for William B. Taylor)

**Graduate Theological Union**, Berkeley, CA  
*Instructor and Teaching Assistant for various*, 2002-04

**University of California, Department of Ethnic Studies**, Berkeley, CA  
*Lecturer and Graduate Student Instructor in Chicano/Latino Studies* 2000-01

### Languages

Professional-level spoken and written Spanish and Portuguese.

## Publications

### Books

*Biography of a Mexican Crucifix: Lived Religion and Local Faith from the Conquest to the Present*, Oxford University Press, January 2010. (Reviewed in *Catholic Historical Review*, *The Journal of Material Religion*, *Church History*, and others).

*Mexican Kairos: Epidemic Disease, Indigenous Death and the Birth of New World Catholicism* (manuscript in preparation)

### Edited Volumes

*Latin American Perspectives* 39(2) March 2012 "Special Issue: Arts, Culture and Politics Vol 1". Co-edited with Ariane Dalla Déa.

*Latin American Perspectives* 39(3) May 2012 "Special Issue: Arts, Culture and Politics. Vol 2". Co-edited with Ariane Dalla Déa.

### Refereed Articles, Book Chapters

"Cradling as a Ritual Posture: Image and Affect in Mesoamerica Religion," in preparation.

"*Mysterium Materiae: Vital Matter and the Object as Evidence in the Study of Religion*," *Bulletin for the Study of Religion*, November 2012 (forthcoming)

"A Materialist Theory of Religion: A View from Latin America," *Method and Theory in the Study of Religion: Journal of the North American Association for the Study of Religion*, forthcoming.

"Authenticity and Resistance: Latin American Art, Activism and Performance in the New Global Context," *Latin American Perspectives: Arts, Culture and Politics Special Issue* 39(2) March 2012 (forthcoming). Co-authored with Ariane Dalla Déa.

"The Niño Jesus Doctor: Novelty and Innovation in Mexican Religion," *Nova Religio: The Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions* 16:2 Nov. 2012 (UC Press, forthcoming).

"Theologies of Conquest: Bartolomé de las Casas and Indigenous Death in Mexico." In *A Festschrift in Honor of Rosemary Radford Ruether*, Emily Silverman and Dirk van der Horst, eds., Equinox Press, UK (forthcoming 2012).

"The Catholic Church and Social Revolutionaries." In *Religion and Society in Latin America: Interpretive Essays from the Conquest to the Present*, ed. Lee Penyak and Walter Petry. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis. September 2009.

### Reference Articles and other Essays

"Spanish Explorations, Conquests, and Missions," "Portuguese Explorations, Conquests, and Missions," and "Padroado/Patronato". In *Cambridge Dictionary of Christianity*, Daniel Patte, ed, Cambridge University Press, September 2010.

"Narcoviolence and the Failure of the Church in Mexico," *Religion Dispatches* (online). September 2, 2010.

### Book Reviews:

William B. Taylor, *Shrines and Miraculous Images: Religious Life in Mexico before the Reforma* (UNM, 2011), *History of Religions* (in progress)

Vincent Brown, *The Reaper's Garden: Death and Power in the World of Atlantic Slavery* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2008)." *Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture*, March 2012 (forthcoming).

Ann Taves, *Religious Experience Reconsidered: A Building-block Approach to the Study of Religion* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2009) in *The Journal of Anglican and Episcopal History* (September 2011).

Javier Villa-Flores, *Dangerous Speech: A Social History of Blasphemy in Colonial Mexico* (University of Arizona Press, 2006) in *Hispanic American Historical Review* 88(4), 2008, pp 702-3.

#### **Editorial Boards**

Editorial Board Member, *Latin American Perspectives*, 2009-present

Editor, *Journal for South-South Dialogue and Exchange*, (Religion Exchange Program, Cape Town, South Africa) 1993-1994

#### **Professional Papers and Invited Lectures**

"Cradling as a Ritual Posture in Mesoamerican Religion," Latin American Studies Association, May 23-26, 2012, San Francisco, CA.

"Ritual postures and Religious Art in Mexican and Mexican-American Cultures", Association of Scholars of Christianity and the History of Art, Los Angeles, CA. February 21, 2012.

"Religious images as agents, objects, and subjects in Latin American practice", University of Southern California, March 2012.

"Mexican Kairos: Religious Responses to Epidemic Disease in Sixteenth Century Mexico," Department of Religious Studies, University of Texas, Austin. January 2012.

"The Object as Evidence in American Religion," North American Association for the Study of Religion, San Francisco, CA November 2011

"Cradling and Presentation: Affection and Tenderness for the Object in Mesoamerican Religion," Religion in Latin America and the Caribbean Group, American Academy of Religion, San Francisco, CA, November 2011

Conference Book Panel on *Biography of a Mexican Crucifix* (Hughes) and *Latino Catholicism* (Matovina), Roman Catholic Studies Group, American Academy of Religion, San Francisco, CA November 2011

"Material Religion: On the Agency of Objects," North American Religions Group, American Academy of Religion, San Francisco, CA November 2011.

"Religious Responses to Demographic Catastrophe in Mexico," Tepoztlán Institute for the Transnational History of the Americas, Tepoztlán, Mexico July 2011.

"Material Religion and Culture in Latin America: Theoretical and Methodological Approaches," USC-Huntington Early Modern Studies Institute, University of Southern California, March 2011.

"Narco-saints and Crisis in Mexico," Department of Religion, University of the Incarnate World, San Antonio, TX, March 2011.

"Religious Innovation and Indigenous Death in Colonial Mexico," Native American Traditions Group, American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, GA, October 2010.

"Novelty and Innovation in Mexican Religion," Workshop on American Religion, Department of Religious Studies, Princeton University, October 2010.

"The Gospel of Totolapan: Lived Religion in Mexico." May, 2010. Latin American Studies Lecture Series, Department of History, University of California, Santa Barbara.

"From Small Pox to Swine Flue: Images and Epidemics in Mexico," Religion, Disease and Epidemics in Mexico Panel, Rocky Mountain Council on Latin American Studies, Boulder, CO, April 2010.

"Local Religion and Global Civil Society in Latin America," Luce Project on Religion in Global Civil Society. Orfalea Center for global and International Studies, University of California Santa Barbara, January 16, 2010.

"Liberation Theology in Historical Context", Religion in Latin American and Caribbean Group, American Academic of Religion, Montreal, November 2009.

"Biography of a Mexican Crucifix: Art, Aesthetics, and Affect in the Study of Latin American and Latino/a Religion". Harvard Divinity School, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, February 2009.

"¡Romero Presente! Popular Devotion to San Oscar Romero," Saints and Social Worlds Panel, History of Christianity Section. American Academic of Religion, San Diego, November 2007.

"The Gentle Devotions of a Rebellious People: Local Religion and Popular Practice in Morelos, Mexico," Religion, Religiosity and Spirituality Track. Latin American Studies Association Congress. Montreal, September 2007.

Session Chair, The Irruption of the Mystical in the Modern, Religion, Religiosity and Spirituality Track. Latin American Studies Association Congress. Montreal, September 2007.

"The Case of María Tiburcia: Mexican Itinerant Preacher and Curandera," American Academy of Religion, Religion in Latin America and the Caribbean Group and Ritual Studies group. Philadelphia, PA. November 2005.

"Biography of a Mexican Crucifix," Five Colleges Religion Seminar, Amherst, Massachusetts. October 2005.

"Religion and Transnationalism in Latin America," Tepoztlán Institute for Transnational History. Tepoztlán, Morelos. July 2005.

"Spiritual Practice versus Art in a Mexican Cult, " American Academy of Religion, Christian Spirituality Group: Spiritual Practice in Latino/a Art and Devotion. San Antonio, Texas. November 2004.

"The Bishop, the Cristo, and the Aesthetics of Liberation," Tepoztlán Institute on Transnational History of the Americas. Tepoztlán, Morelos, Mexico. July 2004.

"Approaches to the Study of Race in Brazil: A Response to John French," Tepoztlán Institute on Transnational History of the Americas. Tepoztlán, Morelos, Mexico. July 2004.

"The Iconography of Suffering: Indigenous Perspectives on Christian Self-inflicted Violence and the Brutality of the Crucifix in Colonial Mexico," American Academy of Religion Meetings, Religion in Latin America and the Caribbean Group. Atlanta, November, 2003.

#### **Conference Organizing**

Program Unit Chair, Religion in Latin America and the Caribbean Group, American Academy of Religion (2007- present)

Organizer, with Jalane Schmidt, Material Religion in Latin America Panel, Latin American Studies Association Congress (LASA), San Francisco 2012.

Organizer, Religion, Disease and Epidemics in Mexico Panel, Rocky Mountain Council on Latin American Studies, Boulder, CO, April 2010.

Organizer, with Jonathan Walton and Michael Alexander, Re-imagining American Religions Conference, UC Riverside, Riverside, California, March 2010.

Organizing Committee, Crisis and Opportunities in Latin America Conference, UC Riverside, Riverside, CA, March 2010.

Session Chair, "Two books at the intersection of Religion and Art: David Carrasco and Laura Pérez" Religion in Latin American and Caribbean Group, American Academic of Religion, Chicago, November 2008.

#### **Awards, Grants and Fellowships**

University of Notre Dame, Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism, Lived History of Vatican II Research Grant (2011-2014).

Chancellor's Research Initiative Grant, UC Riverside 2011-12.

UC President's Faculty Fellowship in the Humanities, 2010-11.

UC Faculty Research Fellowship, 2010-11.

UC MEXUS Small Grant. 2009-2010, "Religious Responses to Swine Flu in Mexico".

Academic Senate Omnibus Research Award, University of California, 2007

Outstanding Dissertation Proposal of the Year Award, Graduate Theological Union (2003)

Episcopal Church Foundation Doctoral Fellow (2001-2003)

Newhall Award for Teaching and Research (2001-2002, 2004), Graduate Theological Union

Presidential Fellow (1999-2001). Graduate Theological Union

Joseph Coleman Richard's Scholar for Excellence in Field Education, Harvard Divinity School

Phi Beta Kappa, UC Santa Cruz

Highest Honors, UC Santa Cruz, Latin American Studies

#### **Academic and University Service**

Founding Co-Director, Institute for the Study of Immigrant Religions, Center for the Study of Ideas and Society, UC Riverside, 2011-

CHAIR (elected), CHASS Executive Committee, UC Riverside, 2012-

Reviewer of Grant Proposals, Social Science Research Council, 2011-12.

Reviewer of Applications, UC President's Postdoctoral Fellowship, 2011-12.

Program Unit Chair. Religion in Latin American and the Caribbean Group. American Academic of Religion. November 2007- present.

Member, CHASS Executive Committee, UC Riverside, 2011-2013

Graduate Studies Committee, Department of Religious Studies, UC Riverside, 2009-2010, 2011-12.

Cooperating Faculty, Latin American Studies, UC Riverside, 2006-

Member and collaborating faculty, Latin American Studies Committee, University of California, Riverside. 2007- present

Graduate Affairs Committee, Department of Religious Studies, UCR 2009, 2010.

Member, University Library and Communications Committee, University of California, Riverside, 2009, 2010.

Co-chair, Departmental Colloquium Series, Department of Religious Studies, University of California, Riverside. 2008-09.

Member, Graduate Admissions Committee, Department of Religious Studies, University of California, Riverside. 2006-7, 2008-9.

Student representative, Doctoral Council, Graduate Theological Union, 2002-2004.

Member, Student Advisory Committee, Graduate Theological Union, 2001-2002 and 2004-2005.

### **Related Work Experience**

#### **Latino Health Institute, Boston, MA**

*HIV/AIDS Housing Counselor, 5/97 to 8/99*

Provided advocacy in Spanish and Portuguese for homeless Latinos and Brazilians living with HIV for largest Latino agency in Greater Boston. Organized cultural events and peer-advocacy group.

#### **East Boston Ecumenical Community Council, Boston, MA**

*Tenant Organizer, Field education intern, 9/94-6/95*

Organized for tenants' rights in diverse, working-poor immigrant community among Central Americans, Brazilians, Cambodians, and Italian-Americans.

#### **Trauma Center for Victims of Violence and Torture, Cape Town, South Africa**

*Refugee Translator and Advocate, 12/93-6/94*

Provided translation, counseling, and needs assessment for Angolan refugees, war victims, and adolescent soldiers.