

Curriculum Vitae

TRACI CASSANDRA WEST

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CURRENT POSITION: James W. Pearsall Professor of Christian Ethics and African American Studies
(January 1995 to the present) Drew University Theological School (Madison, New Jersey)

Education

- Ph.D. - Christian Ethics, Union Theological Seminary, New York, N.Y., May 1995.
- M. Div. - Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, CA 1984
- B.A. - Yale University, New Haven, CT, May 1981.
Religious Studies major

Awards/Grants

- 2020 - Excellence in Teaching Award Voted by Graduate Division of Religion Student Association, Drew University
- 2020 - Bela Kornitzer Book Award, Friends of Drew University Library for *Solidarity and Defiant Spirituality*
- 2020 - CONNECT: Safe Families, Peaceful Communities (NYC) Peace and Justice Award
- 2015 - Walter Wink Scholar-Activist Award, Auburn Seminary
- 2014 - Scholar-Teacher of the Year Award, Drew University
- 2013 - Gwen and C. Dale White Award for Social Action, Methodist Federation for Social Action, New York Annual Conference
- 2012 - Excellence in Teaching Award Voted by Graduate Division of Religion Student Association, Drew University
- 2002 - Scholar-Teacher of the Year Award, Drew University
- 2003 - Teacher of the Year Award, Drew University
- 1999 - Martin Luther King/Abraham Heschel/Fannie Lou Hamer Spirituality and Social Justice Award, Drew University
- 2000-01 - The Colorado Scholar, Harvard Divinity School, Women's Studies in Religion Program
- 2000-01 - Association for Theological Schools Small Research Grant

Ordination Status

- 1985 - Present - Ordained Elder, United Methodist Church, Full Member, New York Annual Conference

Publications

BOOKS:

Solidarity and Defiant Spirituality: Africana Lessons on Religion, Racism, and Ending Gender Violence. NY: New York University Press, 2019.

Disruptive Christian Ethics: When Racism and Women's Lives Matter. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2006.

Wounds of the Spirit: Black Women, Violence and Resistance Ethics. NY: New York University Press, 1999.

Co-author with Karen Oliveto and Kelly Turney. *Holy Conversations: Talking about Homosexuality, A Congregational Resource.* Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 2005.

Edited Volumes

Our Family Values: Same-sex Marriage and Religion, Vol. 2 of *Defending Same-Sex Marriage*, 3 vols. Series editor, Mark Strasser, Westport, CT: Greenwood/Praeger, 2006.

Co-editor with Elizabeth Bounds, Pamela Brubaker, Jane Hicks, Marilyn Legge, Rebecca Peters. *Justice in the Making: Feminist Social Ethics* by Beverly W. Harrison. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2004.

BOOK CHAPTERS:

"Confronting U.S. Moral Hypocrisy on Child Soldiers, Inventing Antiracist Solidarity" in Susan Wilhauk, eds, *Female Child Soldiers, Gender Violence and Feminist Theology.* New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2019.

"Blackening Starting Points for Human Rights, Religion, and Ending Gender Violence" in Wanderley Pereira da Rosa and Raimundo Barreto and eds., *Gender, Violence and Human Rights*, 2019.

Interview, *On Race: 34 Conversations in a Time of Crisis*, ed., George Yancy, (Oxford University Press, 2017)

"The Prophets and Ethics" in *The Oxford Handbook of The Prophets*, ed. Carolyn J. Sharp, (Oxford University Press, 2016).

"Civil Rights, Marriage Equality, Black Clergy and Media Framing in Massachusetts and Georgia" in R. Drew Smith, ed. *From Every Mountainside: Black Churches and the Broad Terrain of Civil Rights* (SUNY Press, 2013).

"Gay Rights and the Misuse of Martin" in *The Domestication of Martin Luther King Jr.: Clarence B. Jones, Right-Wing Conservatism, and the Manipulation of the King*

- Legacy*, Lewis V. Baldwin and Rufus Burrow, Jr., eds., (Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2013).
- “When a White Man-God is the Truth and the Way for Black Christians” in George Yancy, ed., *Christology and Whiteness: What Would Jesus Do?* (New York: Routledge, 2012).
- “A Moral Epistemology of Gender Violence” in Marcia Riggs and James Logan, eds., *Ethics that Matters: African, Caribbean, and African American Sources*, (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2012).
- “Reinhold Niebuhr, Christian Realism, and White Racism” in Miguel de La Torre and Stacey Floyd-Thomas, eds., *Beyond the Pale: Reading Ethics from the Margins*, (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2011).
- “Thanksgiving” Year A, Year B, Year C, in Dawn Ottoni Wilhelm, Bethany, Dale Andrews, and Ron Allen, eds., *Preaching God’s Transformative Justice: A Lectionary Commentary with 22 New Holy Days of Justice!* Westminster John Knox, 2011, 2012, 2013.
- “Preface” in Beth A. Cooper, *Under the Stained Glass Ceiling: Sexual Harassment of United Methodist Clergywomen by Laity*, Frontrowliving Press, 2011.
- “Extending Black Feminist Sisterhood in the Face of Violence: Fanon, White Women and Veiled Muslim Women” in Maria del Guadalupe, Kathryn T. Gines, Donna-Dale L. Marcano, eds., *Convergences: Black feminism and Continental Philosophy* (Albany: State University of New York Press, 2010).
- “What Does Anti-racist Feminist Christian Social Ethics Look Like?” in *New Feminist Christianity: Many Voices, Many Views*, eds., Mary Hunt and Diann Neu (Woodstock, VT: Skylight, 2010).
- "Using Women: Racist Representations and Cross-Racial Ethics," and "Response to Mayra Rivera" in *Creating Ourselves: African Americans and Hispanic Americans on Popular Culture and Religious Expression*, eds., Anthony B. Pinn and Benjamín Valentín (Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 2009).
- “Learning to Build Christian Community: Serving Christ, Whites, Males, Heterosexuals” in *Midterms to Ministry*, ed., Allan Cole (Eerdmans, 2008).
- “Naming the Problem: Black Clergy, U.S. Politics and Marriage Equality” in *Our Family Values: Same-sex Marriage and Religion*, ed., Traci C. West (Westport, CT: Greenwood/Praeger, 2006), 177-190.
- “Is a Womanist a Black Feminist? Marking the Distinctions and Defying Them: A Black Feminist Response,” in *Deeper Shades of Purple: Womanism in Religion and Society*, ed. Stacey M. Floyd-Thomas (NY: New York University Press, 2006), 291-5.

“A Space for Faith, Sexual Desire, and Ethical Black Ministerial Practices,” in *Loving the Body: Black Religious Studies and the Erotic*, eds. Anthony Pinn and Dwight Hopkins (NY: Palgrave, 2005), 31-50.

“Editors’ Afterword: Justice-Making Even When You Don’t Feel Like It” in Beverly Harrison, *Justice in the Making: Feminist Social Ethics*, eds., Elizabeth Bounds, Pamela Brubaker, Jane Hicks, Marilyn Legge, Rebecca Peters, Traci West (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2004), 234-236.

"Mind, Body, Spirit: Sexism and the Role of Religious Intellectuals," in *Harold Cruse's The Crisis of the Negro Intellectual" Reconsidered*, ed., Jerry G. Watts (NY: Routledge, 2004), 203-222.

"Foreword," in Sheryl A. Kujawa-Holbrook, *A House for Prayer for All Peoples: Congregations Building Multicultural Community* by (Washington, D.C: Alban Institute, 2002), viii-x.

"Policing the Sexual Reproduction of Poor Black Women" in *God Forbid: Religion and Sex in American Public Life*, ed., Kathleen Sands (NY: Oxford University Press, 2000), 135-154.

"Agenda for the Churches: Uprooting a National Policy of Morally Stigmatizing Poor Single Black Moms," in *Welfare Policy: Feminist Critiques*, ed., Elizabeth Bounds, Pamela K. Brubaker, Mary E. Hobgood (Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 1999), 133-153.

"Spirit-Colonizing Violations: Racism, Sexual Violence and Black American Women" in *Remembering Conquest: Feminist/Womanist Perspectives on Religion, Colonization and Sexual Violence*, eds., Nantawan Boonprasat Lewis and Marie Fortune (Binghamton, NY: Haworth Pastoral Press, 1999), 19-30.

"Mother-Vision," in *The Book of Women's Sermon's: Hearing God in Each Other's Voices*, ed., E. Lee Hancock (New York: Riverhead Books, 1999), 262-269.

"Race and Gender Oppression Can Really Get in the Way: Ethical Concerns in the Counseling of African American Women Victim/Survivors of Violence" in *Boundary Wars: Intimacy and Distance in Healing Relationships*, Katherine Hancock Ragsdale, ed., (Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 1996), 44-57.

REPRINTS: 1) from Chapter 7 of my book *Wounds of the Spirit* (slightly edited) as: “Sustaining an Ethic of Resistance against Domestic Violence in Black Faith-Based Communities,” in *Domestic Violence at the Margins: Readings on Race, Class, and Culture*, eds, Natalie J. Sokoloff with Christian Pratt (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2005), 340-349; “An Antiracist Christian Ethical Approach to Violence Resistance,” in *Color of Violence*, Incite! Women

of Color Against Violence (Cambridge: South End Press, 2006), 242-49.
2) “The Harms of Sexual Harassment” in Mary Jo Iozzio, and Patricia Beattie Jung, eds. *Sex and Gender: Christian Ethical Reflections*, (Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 2017).

Forthcoming book chapter:

“Groundwork for Racial Justice: Niebuhr’s approach and Christian ethics opposition to white dominance” in Robin Lovin and Joshua Mauldin eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Reinhold Niebuhr*. New York: Oxford University Press.

SELECTED ARTICLES:

“Ending Gender Violence: An Anti-racist Intersectional Agenda for the Churches”
Review and Expositor, Volume: 117 issue: 2, (May 2020): 199-203.

“Interview on Solidarity and Defiant Spirituality” *Black Agenda Report*, January 2019
<https://www.blackagendareport.com/bar-book-forum-traci-westssolidarity-and-defiant-spirituality-and-gershun-avilezs-radical>

“Black Bisexual Queering of Anti-Violence Christian Ethics” in *Modern Believing: The Journal of Theological Liberalism* (Liverpool University Press), Special Issue: Method, Pedagogy, Power and the Question of Black Queer Theology, Volume 60, No. 1(January 1, 2019):
<https://online.liverpooluniversitypress.co.uk/doi/abs/10.3828/mb.2019.3>

“Is Christian political theology too conservative to undermine sexual violence?” *Political Theology Network*, October 29, 2018. <https://politicaltheology.com/is-christian-political-theology-too-conservative-to-undermine-sexual-violence/>

“#Time’sUp for Church Excuses” in Ray Waddle, ed., *Reflections: Sex, Gender, Power: A Reckoning*, Fall 2018: 47-49

“Actively Listening to Testimonies about Rape Culture and Religion” in *Teaching Theology & Religion*, Special Issue: Teaching Sexuality in the Classroom, eds, Kate Ott and Darryl Stephens, 20, no. 2, April 2017.

“Intersections: A Zimbabwe-U.S. Class,” co-authored with *Maaraidzo E. Mutambara* in “Intersectionality in Theological Education,” Jeanne Stevenson-Moessner, editor, *Spotlight on Theological Education Religious Studies News*, April 2015.

“The Gift of Arguing with Mary Daly’s White Feminism” *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*, Volume 28, 2 (Fall 2012): 112-117.

“The Cost of Violence and Finding the Resources to Change” in Laurie Cassidy and Maureen H. O’Connell, eds., *Religion, Economics, and Culture in Conflict and Conversation*, College Theology Society Annual, Vol. 56 (2010): 82-88.

- “Theology of Sexuality” *Faith in Action*, on-line newsletter, UMC General Board of Church and Society, March 2, 2009.
- “The Work of the Scholar/Activist Teacher” edited by Rebecca Alpert and Traci West, *Religious Studies News* (October 2008), 25-26.
- “Gendered Legacies of Martin Luther King Jr.’s Leadership,” *Theology Today*, vol. 65 (2008): 41-65.
- “Response, Roundtable Discussion: Must I Be Womanist?” *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*, Vol. 22, no. 1 (Spring 2006): 128-134.
- “Response to *Sexual Violence: The Sin Revisited*”, ed., Carol J. Adams, *Journal of Religion and Abuse*, Vol. 7, No. 2 (2005): 8-14.
- “Domestic Violence: Speaking Out,” United Methodist Women’s *Response: The Voice of Women in Mission*, 37/9 (October 2005): 8-9.
- “Visions of Womanhood: Beyond Idolizing Heteropatriarchy,” *Union Seminary Quarterly Review*, 58, 3-4, (2004): 128-139.
- “The Factor of Race/ethnicity in Clergy Sexual Abuse of Children,” *Concilium* 3 (June 2004): 40-50.
- “Constructing Ethics: Reinhold Niebuhr and Harlem Women Activists,” *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics*, 24, 1 (2004): 29-49.
- “Sexuality and Boundaries,” *Congregations*, 29/3 (Summer 2003): 12-13.
- “The Challenge of ‘Experience’ for Learning about Violence against Women,” in ed. Richard Freud, *Theory Practice Learning: Models in Violence Studies and Conflict Resolution*, *American Academy of Religion Spotlight on Teaching* (May 2000).
- “Response to *Proverbs of Ashes: Violence, Redemptive Suffering, and the Search for What Saves Us*,” *Journal of Religion and Abuse*, Vol. 4, No. 2 (2002): 80-86.
- “What Shape Should Evangelism and Mission Take in our Multicultural, Pluralistic World?” *Quarterly Review* 22/4 (Winter 2002): 411-414.
- “Bible Study: Listen to Mary’s Justice Song,” United Methodist Women’s *Response: The Voice of Women in Mission*, 33/3 (March 2001): 5-6.
- “Bible Study: Gospel Sheds Light on What God Requires,” United Methodist Women’s *Response: The Voice of Women in Mission*, 32/1 (January 2000): 5-7.

"The Harms of Sexual Harassment," *Annual for the Society of Christian Ethics* 19 (1999): 377-382.

"The Mary and Martha Story: Who Learns What Lesson about Women and Ministry?" *Quarterly Review* 19 (Summer 1999): 135-152.

"What if Women's Anguish Mattered?" *Christian Social Action*, Vol. 11/No. 11 (December 1998): 38-39.

"Mut der Seele! Die vielschichtigen Konsequenzen von Gewalt gegen Frauen," Elisabeth Wolf, trans., *Schlangenbrut: streitschrift fr feministisch und religieus interessierte frauen*, Nr. 63, 16 jahrgang (November 1998): 29-31.

"Exposing the Insidious Tentacles of Cultural Domination," Roundtable Discussion: Nondiscrimination and Diversity, *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*, Vol. 13, No. 2 (Fall 1997): 95-99.

Book Review Essays/Encyclopedia Entries

-- Response to *Peaceful Families: American Muslim Efforts Against Domestic Violence* by Juliane Hammer, Maydan Forum (November 2020)

<https://themaydan.com/2020/11/book-forum-peaceful-families/>

--"Confronting Black-Asian Conflicts," Book review response to Ki Joo Choi's *Disciplined By Race: Theological Ethics and the Problem of Asian American Identity*, Syndicate, 10/8/2019,

<https://syndicate.network/symposia/theology/disciplined-by-race/>

--*Gay Religion*, edited by Scott Thumma and Edward R. Gray in *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, Vol. 74, Issue 3 (September 2006): 792-795.

--*A Whosoever Church: Welcoming Lesbians and Gay Men into African American Congregations* by Gary David Comstock in *Union Seminary Quarterly Review* 56 no. 1-2 (2002): 252-257.

--*Battered Women, the Syndrome Society, and the Law* by Donald A. Downs in *Contemporary Sociology: A Journal of Reviews*, Vol. 26, No. 6 (November 1997): 646-647.

--"African Americans" and "Counseling by Clergy" in *Encyclopedia of Rape*, ed., Merrill Smith (Greenwood, 2004).

--"Androcentrism" and "Sexism" in *Cambridge Dictionary of Christianity*, Gen. Ed., Daniel Patte (Cambridge University Press, 2010).

SELECTED LECTURES

-- The Center for LGBTQ and Gender Studies in Religion (CLGS) Georgia Harkness Lecture, "Engendering Solidarity and Defiant Spirituality for Church Leaders" (October 2020)

--American Academy of Religion, Women and Religion Panel (on my book), *Solidarity and Defiant Spirituality*, Respondent, San Diego, CA (November 2019)

--Belk Lecture, "Seeking Antiracist Christian Solidarity in Ending Gender Violence"
Wesleyan College, Macon, GA (October 2019)

--Compagna-Sennett Lecture, "Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death: Liberation,
Theology, and Who Gets to Say", Co-panelist with Cynthia R. Chapman, Colby College,
Waterville, Maine (October 2019)

--Panel presenter at the Society of Christian Ethics on *Disciplined by Race: Theological
Ethics and the Problem of Asian American Identity*, K.C. Choi, Louisville, KY,
(January 2019)

--Martin Luther King, Jr. University Lecture, "Hate Harms: Remembering Why We
Remember the Civil Rights Movement", College of Saint Benedict, Saint John's
University Collegeville, Minnesota (January 2019)

--Eden Theological Seminary Spring Convocation Lectures, The Church at the
Intersection of Race and Sexuality "Decolonizing Christian Morality...Starting With
Racism and Rape: Lecture I: Denial, Lecture II: Systemic Disinvestment"
(St. Louis, MO, April 3, 2018)

--Consultation on Religion, Gender, and Human Rights, Sponsored Faculdade Unida de
Vitória and ITC, Panel: "Religion, Violence, and Human Rights", Paper on: "Blackening
Starting Points for Human Rights, Religion, and Ending Gender Violence", Vitória
Brazil, (May 16-18, 2018)

--Global Consultation for the Commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of the Decade of
the Churches in Solidarity with Women, Plenary Panel: Gender in Unity and Mission
Panel, Paper title: "Gender-based violence, Racism, and the Church", Kingston, Jamaica,
(October 1-6, 2018)

--Pauli Murray Faith/Spirituality Think Tank, Pauli Murray Center for History and Social
Justice, Duke University Human Rights Center, Durham, NC, (November 9-11, 2018)

--When Prayers are Not Enough: Religion, Gender, and Family Violence, Paper title
"Africana Transnational Hope: Religion, Anti-black Racism, and Activist Responses to
Intimate Violence Against Women", Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre for Family
Violence Research, Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada, (September 13-14, 2016)

-- African Association for the Study of Religion (AASR) 7th biennial conference on
"Religion, Sexuality, and Identity in Africa & The African Diaspora", University of
Ghana, Legon, Paper: "Can We Talk? Prospects and Impediments for U.S.-African
Christian Solidarity on Ending Sexual Violence Against Lesbian, Transgender, and
Heterosexual Women", Accra, Ghana (July 2016)

- “How Racism and Christianity Can Foster Violence Against Women”, Simpson College, Indianola, Iowa, Thirty-Fifth Annual Matthew Simpson Lecture in Religion, (October 2016)
- “How Does Religion and Racism Impact the Global Struggle to End Gender-Based Violence?” University of Western Cape, Dept. of Religion and Theology, Cape Town, South Africa, (January 2012)
- Louisville Presbyterian Seminary, Kate Geneva Canon Lecture, “What Does Anti-racist Christian sexual ethics Look Like?” Louisville, KY (September 2011)
- “What does anti-racist Christian sexual ethics” “U.S. Christianity and Violence Against Women” Kate Geneva Canon Lecture at Louisville Presbyterian Seminary, Louisville, KY (September 2011)
- Addis Ababa University, Institute of Ethiopian Studies, *Callaloo: Journal of African Diaspora Arts and Letters* (Black) Movements: Poetics and Praxis 2010 Conference, panelist on “Black Feminism as Pan-Africanism” panel, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, (July 2010)

Academic Service

- Society of Christian Ethics Professional Conduct Committee (2019-present)
- Editorial board of T&T Clark Studies in Social Ethics, Ethnography, and Theology (2019-present)
- New Room Books Editorial Board, United Methodist Publishing House, (2017- present)
- *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* Editorial Board, 2005-18, Co-editor, 2014-17
- *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics* Editorial Board, 2006-2009
- *Journal of Religion and Abuse* Advisory Board, 2004-2007
- Senator, University Senate of United Methodist Church (determines which schools, colleges, universities, and theological schools meet the criteria for listing as institutions affiliated with the UMC), 2004-2013

