

Vanessa Lovelace, PhD
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Current Position

Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of the Seminary and Associate Professor of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, PA

Education

PhD **Chicago Theological Seminary**, Bible (Hebrew), Culture, and Hermeneutics, 2012

“Deborah and Huldah: Symbolic Border Guards in the Deuteronomistic History”
Advisor: Ken Stone, PhD.

A socio-literary approach to the women prophets in the Hebrew Bible examining how these literary figures are used symbolically to signify and reproduce the ideological boundaries that distinguished Israel from the other nations.

Examination Areas: Biblical Hermeneutics, Twentieth Century Theology, Hebrew Bible in its Social World, Feminist and Womanist Theology and Biblical Hermeneutics, Prophets and Prophecy in the Ancient Near East, Women and Gender in Ancient Israel

M.Div. **McCormick Theological Seminary**, Divinity, 2000

BA **San Francisco State University**, Radio & Television, 1985

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Associate Professor of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta, GA 2016–2019

Assistant Professor of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, Interdenominational Theological Center (Atlanta), 2012–2016

Residential Courses Taught

M.Div. Degree Program - Introduction to the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, Introduction to Biblical Hebrew I & II, Deuteronomy, Exodus, Judges, The Psalms, Womanist Biblical Interpretation, Bible, Race, Gender, Sexuality and Pastoral Care

Online Courses Taught

Introduction to the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, Lamentations, Book of Joshua, 1 Kings, Book of Jeremiah, Prophets and Prophecies in Ancient Israel

D. Min. Degree Program - Biblical Reflections Seminar

**Mississippi Course of Study School at Millsaps College – Jackson, Mississippi
(October 5–6; 19–20, 2018)**

Adjunct Professor

Course Taught

Bible II: Torah and Israel's History

Eden Theological Seminary – St. Louis, Missouri (Fall 2018)

Co-Facilitator, Readings in Womanist Thought Directed Study online

Elmhurst College – Elmhurst, IL (2003–2012)

Adjunct Professor

Courses Taught

Biblical Studies and Contemporary Issues; Women in Biblical Literature; Theologies of Liberation

Payne Theological Seminary – Wilberforce, OH (Spring 2011)

Adjunct Professor

Course Taught

Introduction to Womanist and Feminist Theology

Awards & Honors

International Society of Theta Phi inductee, spring 2017

2016–17 Interdenominational Theological Center Student Christian League Faculty
Member of the Year Award

The Fund for Theological Education North American Doctoral Fellowship, 2004

United Church of Christ Make A Difference! Doctoral Award, 2002, 2004, 2006

Dr. Manford Byrd, Jr. Scholarship, Trinity United Church of Christ, Chicago, 2003,
2004, 2006

Adrienne M. and Charles Shelby Rooks Fellowship for Racial and Ethnic Theological
Students, 2000

Scholarly Publications

Bachmann, Mercedes L. García, and Vanessa Lovelace. “Contributing Voices: Deborah
in the African American Tradition.” In *Judges*. Wisdom Commentary Series, vol. 17,
edited by Ahida Pilarski, 70–74. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2018.

“The Deuteronomistic History: Intersections of Ethnicity, Gender, Sexuality and Nation.” In *The Hebrew Bible: Feminist and Intersectional Perspectives*. Edited by Gale A. Yee, 75–104. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2018.

Womanist Interpretations of the Bible: Expanding the Discourse, co-edited with Gay L. Byron. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2016.

“‘We Don’t Give Birth to Thugs’: Family Values, Respectability Politics and Jephthah’s Mother.” In *Womanist Interpretations of the Bible: Expanding the Discourse*, edited by Gay L. Byron and Vanessa Lovelace, 239–261. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2016.

“This Woman’s Son Shall Not Inherit with My Son: Towards a Womanist Politics of Belonging in the Sarah-Hagar Narratives.” *Journal of the Interdenominational Theological Center* 41 (2015): 63–82.

“Religious Leaders: Hebrew Bible.” In *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Bible and Gender Studies*, Vol. 2 – PAT - WOM. Edited by Julia M. O’Brien. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014, 167–173.

Forthcoming

“Working in a Religious Context.” *Biblical Scholarship in North America*. In *Women and the Society of Biblical Literature*. Edited by Nicole Tilford. Atlanta: SBL Press, forthcoming.

“Hagar’s Racial Identity in Nineteenth Century Southern Women’s Novels in the U.S.A.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Feminist Approaches to the Hebrew Bible*. Edited by Susanne Scholz. New York: Oxford University Press, forthcoming.

“Rethinking Christian Identity, Reframing the Chosen People in a Predominately African American Theological Context.” In *Reading in These Times*. Edited by Tat-Siong Benny Liew and Fernando Segovia. Atlanta: Semeia, forthcoming.

Reviews

Susanne Scholz, ed., *Feminist Interpretation of the Hebrew Bible in Retrospect II: Social Locations, Review of Biblical Literature* [<http://www.bookreviews.org>] (2019).

Wilda C. Gafney, *Womanist Midrash: A Reintroduction to the Women of the Torah and the Throne*. *Horizons in Biblical Theology* 40, no. 2 (2018): 212–215.

Nyasha Junior, *An Introduction to Womanist Biblical Interpretation*. *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 79, no. 4 (October 2017): 684–685.

Mark McEntire, *A Chorus of Prophetic Voices: Introducing the Prophetic Literature of Ancient Israel* and James D. Nogalski, *Interpreting Prophetic Literature: Historical and Exegetical Tools for Reading the Prophets*. *Biblical Interpretation* 26, no. 3 (2018): 421–427.

David Watson, *The Question of Conscience: Higher Education and Personal Responsibility*. Wabash Center for Teaching Religion and Theology *Reflective Teaching* website, March 5, 2015, https://www.wabashcenter.wabash.edu/resources/book_reviews/the-question-of-conscience-higher-education-and-personal-responsibility/.

Naomi Steinberg, *The World of the Child in the Hebrew Bible*. *Biblical Interpretation* 22, no. 5, (2014): 217–219.

Jennifer L. Koosed, *Gleaning Ruth: A Biblical Heroine and Her Afterlives*. *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 74, no. 3 (July 2012): 577–578.

Popular Contributions

“Toward a Model of Mutual Relationship in African American Marriages” in *Mutuality*, vol. 23, no. 2, Summer 2016, 21–23.

Web-Based

"Hagar in Fiction." In *Oxford Encyclopedias of the Bible*, edited by Vanessa Lovelace. *Oxford Biblical Studies Online*, <http://www.oxfordbiblicalstudies.com/article/opr/t998/e49> (accessed 11-Jun-2018).

Contributing Author, Commentary on Working Preacher website, https://www.workingpreacher.org/profile/default.aspx?uid=2_lovelace_vanessa

Work in Progress

Monograph titled *Outsiders Within: A Womanist Reading of Hebrew Bible Narratives as the Politics of Belonging* that analyzes select narratives and laws in the Hebrew Bible, alongside U.S. narratives and laws, to examine how both collections relied upon ethnicity/race, gender, and sexuality to create a national identity consisting of insiders and outsiders. It engages sociological and intersectional approaches, narrative criticism, reception history, and womanist hermeneutics to engage the interlocking and overlapping categories of ethnicity/race, gender and class in that inform political projects that help shape national identity formation.

Invited Conference Papers

“Rethinking Christian Identity, Reframing the Chosen People and Reclamation of ‘The New Negro,’” Minoritized Criticism and Biblical Interpretation Section, Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL), Atlanta, GA, November 23, 2015.

“Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Jacquelyn Grant’s *White Women’s Christ and Black Women’s Jesus*,” Joint Session With: African-American Biblical Hermeneutics, Feminist Hermeneutics of the Bible, Minoritized Criticism and Biblical Interpretation, Women in the Biblical World, Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL), San Diego, CA, November 22, 2014.

Conference Papers & Presentations

Review of *Womanist Interpretation of the Bible: Expanding the Discourse*, Joint Session

of the Feminist Hermeneutics of the Bible and Minoritized Criticism and Biblical Interpretation sections; Respondent, Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, San Antonio, TX, November 20, 2016.

“From White to Black to White: The Depiction of the Biblical Figure Hagar in Nineteenth Century Southern Women’s Novels,” Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL), Atlanta, GA, November 21, 2015.

“Twenty-Five Years after *White Women’s Christ and Black Women’s Jesus*: ‘We’ Still Means White Feminists and Womanist Still Matters,” 2015 Charles B. Copher Annual Faculty Lecture, Atlanta, GA, March 26, 2015.

“Essays on Bible and Gender Studies,” Discussion, 2015 Celebration of AUC (Atlanta University Center) Faculty Achievements, Atlanta, GA, March 19, 2015.

“Anti-Racism, Multiculturalism, and Pedagogy”; “Connecting Research to Teaching.” Wabash Center Workshop on Teaching and Learning for Pre-Tenure Theological School Faculty, Wabash College, Crawfordsville, Indiana, June 27, 2014.

Joint Session of the Disputed Paulines and Feminist Hermeneutics of the Bible sections, Respondent, Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Baltimore, MD, November 24, 2013.

“People, Power, and Politics: Preaching Jeremiah in Year C.” The Main Event, Presbytery of Sheppards & Lapsley, North Alabama Presbytery, Birmingham, AL, August 10, 2013.

“Diary of a Mad Black Woman: Intersectionality, Divine Revelation and the Institutionalization of Black Women,” RHAW (Religious Heritage of the African World) Brown Bag Lecture, Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta, GA, March 20, 2013.

“Female Honor in Genesis 16:1–5,” Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature 2005 Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, November 22, 2005.

Interdenominational Theological Center Institutional Service

- Master of Divinity Degree Program Coordinator (2017–present)
- Chair, Curriculum Review and Revision Task Force Committee (2015–2018)
- Chair, Admissions Committee (2013–present)
- Faculty Status, Tenure, and Welfare Committee (2015–present)
- Curriculum and Educational Policies Committee (2015–present)
- Ministry and Context Director Search Committee (2016–17)
- Biblical Studies Faculty Search Committee (2015, 2017–2018)
- Safety Planning Ad-Hoc Committee (2014)
- Chapel Committee (2013–2014)
- IE/QEP Committee (2012–2015, 2016–present)

Volunteer Work

2017 to present, Editorial Board, *Biblical Theology Bulletin*

Society of Biblical Literature

- Program Unit Co-Chair, Women in the Biblical World Section, 2015–present
- On-Campus Student Representative, 2007–2010

American Academy of Religion

- Committee on the Status of Women in the Profession, 2019–present

Workshops, Conferences, and Consultations

Association of Theological Schools 2019 Roundtable Seminar for Midcareer Faculty
April 5–6, 2019

UNCF/Mellon 2017 Faculty Domestic Seminar: New Directions in Gender and Sexuality
Studies, October 12–14, 2017

Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion Workshop for
Theological School Faculty Teaching Online, 2016–17

Sisters with Sons in the Wilderness: A Womanist Roundtable Discussion, Chicago
Theological Seminary, April 7–9, 2016

Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion Workshop for Pre-
Tenure Theological School Faculty, 2013–2014

Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion Summer Fellowship
“Integrating Theory of Gender and Nation into Biblical Studies: Teaching and Learning
for Inclusion,” Wabash College, Crawfordsville, Indiana, 2014

Publish or Perish? An Academic Writing Institute for Atlanta University Center Junior
Faculty participant, December 15–16, 2014

Forum for Theological Exploration Doctoral Alumni Consultation, 2015, 2012

Fund for Theological Education Doctoral Fellows Conference, University of Notre
Dame, June 11–13, 2004

Professional Experience

Freelance Writer. Urban Ministries, Inc., Calumet City, IL (1998 to 2015) Research and
write Sunday school curriculum for adult readers bringing cultural relevance and
contemporary issues to Bible lessons.

Editor/Reviewer. *Aspire: The New Women of Color Bible Study Bible*, Grand Rapids,

MI (2007) Reviewed the Hebrew Bible footnotes for linguistic, theological, historical, and cultural accuracy.

Student Intern. DEPTH (Discover, Explore, Partner, where Transformation Happens) Youth Program, Chicago, IL (September 2002 to June 2003) Student coordinator for immersion service weekend pairing youth from diverse backgrounds interested in ministry as a vocation with community agencies that work with homelessness, hunger, affordable housing, economic justice and environmental justice.

Assistant Pastor and Director of Youth Ministries. Immanuel United Church of Christ, Evergreen Park, IL (February 2000 to June 2002) Assisted adolescents and youth in Christian formation through confirmation classes, Bible study, community service and social activities; provided pastoral support including preaching, worship planning, visiting members, pastoral care and counseling, etc.

Media Development Director. Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Corporate Office, Chicago, IL (July 1993 to December 1996) Managed a staff of three in the review, editing, publishing and mailing of the organization's main communication organ, *Ivy Leaf* magazine.

Professional Affiliations

American Academy of Religion

Society of Biblical Literature

Society for the Study of Black Religion

Ordained Minister, Lancaster Association, Penn Central Conference, United Church of Christ