

Curriculum Vitae

TRACI CASSANDRA WEST

Drew University Theological School
Madison, New Jersey 07940
Office Phone: (973) 408-3082
E-mail: twest@drew.edu
Website: <https://www.tracicwest.com/>

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 Social 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/Fellowships

- 2024 - Excellence in Teaching Award Voted by Graduate Division of Religion Student Association, Drew University
- 2023 - Scholar-Teacher of the Year Award, Drew University
- 2021-23 - Auburn Seminary Sojourner Truth Leadership Circle Fellowship
Reproductive Justice Cohort
- 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
- 2012 - Crosscurrents Research Colloquium Fellowship: Role of Religion in Social Movements
- 2002 - Scholar-Teacher of the Year Award, Drew University
- 2003 - Teacher of the Year Award, Voted by Graduate Division of Religion Student Association, 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,

2000-01 - Women's Studies in Religion Program
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.

SELECTED BOOK CHAPTERS:

"Foreword," in eds., Aana Marie Vigen and Christian Scharen, *Ethnography as Christian Ethics and Theology, A Fully Revised 2nd Edition*, New York: T&T Clark, 2024.

"Misogyny and the Stench of White Supremacist Christianity" in eds., George Yancy and Bill Bywater, *In Sheep's Clothing: The Idolatry of White Christian Nationalism* Lanham, Maryland: Rowman and Littlefield, 2024.

"Preface," in Michael Granzen, *Breaking Through the Plate Glass Window: Prophetic Fragments Selected Writings on Seeking Justice in a Time of Reckoning.* Eugene, OR: Cascade, 2022.

"Letter" in ed., Henco Van der Westhuizen, *Letters to a Young Theologian.* Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2022.

- “Gratitude for Black Christian Transnational LGBTQIA Equality Advocacy” in eds., Sarojini Nadar, Tinyiko Maluleke, Dietrich Werner, Vicentia Kgabe and Rudolf Hinz, *Ecumenical Encounters with Desmond Mpilo Tutu - Visions for Justice, Dignity and Peace*. Regnum Books/Oxford and University of Western Cape Press, 2021.
- “Racial Justice” in eds., Robin Lovin and Joshua Mauldin, *The Oxford Handbook of Reinhold Niebuhr*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2021.
- “Confronting U.S. Moral Hypocrisy on Child Soldiers, Inventing Antiracist Solidarity” in ed., Susan Wilhauk, *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 eds., Reginaldo Paranhos Braga Júnior and Wanderley Pereira da Rosa, *Religião, violências e direitos humanos (Religion, Violence, and Human Rights)*, 2019.
- Interview, *On Race: 34 Conversations in a Time of Crisis*, ed., George Yancy. New York: Oxford University Press, 2017.
- “The Prophets and Ethics” in *The Oxford Handbook of The Prophets*, ed. Carolyn J. Sharp. New York: 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*, eds., Lewis V. Baldwin and Rufus Burrow, Jr. 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 Day” Year A, Year B, Year C, in Dawn Ottoni Wilhelm, Bethany, Dale

Andrews, and Ron Allen, eds., *Preaching God's Transforming Justice: A Lectionary Commentary with 22 New Holy Days of Justice!* Westminster John Knox, 2011, 2012, 2013.

“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.

SELECTED ARTICLES:

“Disruption,” *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics*, 42 no 2 (2022): 281-287

“Embracing Conflict,” *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*, 38 no 1(Spring 2022): 23-25.

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

“Magnanimous and Brilliant Sister Dr. Katie,” *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*, 35 no 2 (Fall 2019):147-149.

- “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): 15-28.
<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 eds, Kate Ott and Darryl Stephens *Teaching Theology & Religion*, Special Issue: Teaching Sexuality in the Classroom, Vol. 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.

Book Review Essays/Encyclopedia Entries

--“The Personal and Political Gendering of Black Love,” Symposium on *Black Dignity* by Vincent Lloyd, University of Notre Dame, Keough School of Global Affairs, *Contending Modernities: Exploring how religious and secular forces interact in the modern world*, (July 18, 2023)

<https://contendingmodernities.nd.edu/theorizing-modernities/personal-political-gender-black-love/>

-- 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*, (October 2019), *Forum/Dialogue with author*

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

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

--*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.

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

Podcasts:

--“Navigating Christian Ethics in a Complex World”, *Change Happens Now Podcast*: Season 7, Episode 2, <https://www.psr.edu/news/change-happens-now-podcast-navigating-christian-ethics-in-a-complex-world/>, April 10, 2024.

--“Things That Matter: Confronting White Christian Nationalism”,
<https://progressivechristianity.org/resources/things-that-matter-confronting-white-christian-nationalism/>, August 17, 2022;
--“Lean on Me”, Jesus Has Left the Building, November 5, 2022;
<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/lean-on-me/id1534464212?i=1000585187290>;
--FSR “Feminists Talk Religion: Scripture and Liberation”
<https://www.fsrinc.org/feminists-talk-religion-podcast/>; “Fortification: Spiritual Sustenance for Movement Leaders,” September 2020 season 4, episode 4

SELECTED LECTURES

--University of Notre Dame, Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies 26th Annual Dialogues on Nonviolence, Religion, and Peace Lecture, "Racism, Gender Violence, and Hypocrisies of Christian Love and Peace" (April 2024)

--2023 Antoinette Brown Lecture, Vanderbilt Divinity School, “Misogynist Stench in Christian White Supremacy” (April 2023)

-- Denison University, 2023 Goodspeed Lecture, “Antiracist Solidarity and the Problem of Ending Gender Violence” (October 2023)

--Plenary Address at “Scholars and Scholarship on Black Men and Boys: Building the Third Wave” Conference, University of Michigan, Ypsilanti, MI (May 2022)

--“Fannie Lou Hamer’s Intersectional Resistance to Coercive Control,” Panel on “The Experiences of Black Women and Transformative Movements,” VII Congress of Gender and Religion: Courage, Creativity, Hope, Faculdade Unida de Vitória, Brazil, held virtually (August 2021)

-- University of Western Cape, Desmond Tutu Centre for Religion and Social Justice, Keynote Lecture, "Economies of Violence" Cape Town, South Africa, held virtually (August 2020)

-- The Center for LGBTQ and Gender Studies in Religion (CLGS) Georgia Harkness Lecture, “Engendering Solidarity and Defiant Spirituality for Church Leaders,” Berkeley, California, held virtually (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)

- 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)
- "What does anti-racist Christian sexual ethics" "U.S. Christianity and Violence Against Women" Kate Geneva Cannon 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

- Starr-King School for the Ministry, Oakland, CA, Board of Trustees (2021- 2024)
- *Journal of Black Women and Religious Cultures* editorial review board (2021- present)
- Society of Christian Ethics Professional Conduct Committee (2019-22), Chairperson, 2021-22
- Editorial board of T&T Clark/Bloomsbury Studies in Social Ethics, Ethnography, and Theologies (2019-present), Convener, 2021-2023
- New Room Books Editorial Board, United Methodist Publishing House, (2017- 2020)
- *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* Editorial Board (2005-18, Co-editor, 2014-18)
- *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