

Jeanette Reedy Solano, Ph.D

Associate Professor of Religious Studies

California State University, Fullerton

P.O. Box 6868, Fullerton, CA 92834 jsolano@fullerton.edu W: 657-278-7554

Education

University of Chicago, The Divinity School, Chicago, IL

Ph.D. in Theology, awarded with Distinction

August, 1999

Dissertation: *"But Women Will Be Saved through Childbearing": A Cross-cultural Comparison of Traditional and Feminist Christian Visions of Motherhood in Brazil and the United States*

Dissertation Advisors: Anne Carr, David Tracy, University of Chicago

Reader: Maria Pilar Aquino, University of San Diego.

University of Chicago, The Divinity School, Chicago, IL

M.A. in Religion,

August, 1990

Thesis: *Toward a Fully-Human Hermeneutic: A Discourse on the Value of Symbol in the Works of Paul Ricoeur and Caroline Walker Bynum*

Occidental College, Los Angeles, CA **B.A. with Distinction**, double major in Religious Studies & English 1988

Senior Thesis: *The Wasteland to the Promised Land: The Spiritual Evolution of T.S. Eliot*

Leeds University, Leeds, England Junior Year Abroad, Religious Studies and English Literature 1986-87

Peer-Reviewed Publications & Creative Productions

Religion and Film: The Basics

(London: Routledge Press, 2021)

This 231-page, 6-chapter, book is part of Routledge Press' *The Basics* series and is being received by scholars in the field as a vital and helpful introduction to the field. The manuscript underwent rigorous peer-review throughout the multi-year writing and publishing process.

Out of the Fire

March 2010

This short film was selected as one of the top 10 films of the International 168 Film Festival, *Out of the Fire* was nominated for 13 awards, including Best Film and Best Director. This **peer-reviewed** original narrative dramatic film was made with poets from Homeboys Industries. I won the \$1,000 prize as **Best New Filmmaker** of the Festival. I continue to use this film, which I produced and directed, in my courses, especially CPRL 367, CPRL 352, CPRL 311 & CPRL 105. It has been screened across the country at film festivals and at our international academic conference, the American Academy of Religion's Annual Meeting in 2014.

LOST short chapter in peer-reviewed *Don't Stop Believin: Pop Culture and Religion from Ben-hur to Zombies*

(Westminster John Knox Press, June, 2011)

Blessed Broken Bodies: Exploring Redemption in Central Station and Breaking the Waves

Journal of Religion and Film

Vol. 1, no 8, April 2004

Central American Religious Experience: The El Salvadorans and Guatemalans as Case Studies

Peer-reviewed chapter in *Introduction to the U.S. Latina and Latino Religious Experience* edited by Hector Avalos, Brill Academic Publishers.

August, 2004

The Transnational Savior: How a Salvadoran Jesus Reunited with His People in the U.S. August, 2004
A 42 minute digital documentary film based on my field research and interviews (peer-reviewed)

Professional Academic Presentations, Papers, Publications

Lars Von Trier's Cinema: Excess, Evil, and the Prophetic Voice *Journal of Religion and Film*
In-depth (2,200 word) critical book review. April 2023 edition

Moving Body as Foundational to the Proper Study of Religion: A Response to and the Celebration of the Work of Sam Gill Denver, 2022

Invited panelist to review Gill's award-winning new book and life's work

AAR (American Academy of Religion) Annual Meeting

Essay accepted to be published as Roundtable working paper in *Body and Religion* (peer-reviewed journal)
Spring 2023 issue

"But it's just about movies, right?" Preparing and Publishing Quality Scholarship on Religion and Film

Vrije University, Amsterdam NL, June 2022

Invited panelist (1 of 2) at the International Religion and Film Conference: *Visions of a Better World*

Life and Death are Beautiful: Alejandro G. Iñárritu as Auteur

AAR Annual Meeting. Panelist, (blind peer-reviewed paper)

San Diego, 2019

No Promised Land: Immigrant Realities in Independent Film: Exploring Napanla, Memory, and Interdependency in A Better World and Beautiful (blind peer-reviewed paper)

International Religion and Film Conference

Halifax, Nova Scotia Canada, 2019

Religion Scholars as Public Intellectuals in Religion, Film, Television: 21st Century Industry Interlocutors

American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. Organized and participated in panel.

Denver, 2018

Watching Stranger Things Religiously: Fierce Community, Binge-Watching, and the Shifting Landscape of TV Consumption

AAR Annual Meeting. Organized the panel and served as Presider and Respondent

Boston, MA, 2017

Embodied Images: Religion, Politics, and the Sacred in Visual Media

AAR Annual Meeting, Presider

San Antonio, 2016

Muslims, Film, and Visual Culture

AAR Annual Meeting, Organizer and Presider

Atlanta, 2015

"Right Back at You!"; Documentary Film, Fandom, and Feeling"

AAR Annual Meeting 2014 Respondent for panel

San Diego, CA., 2014

Frisbee: The Life and Death of a Hippy Preacher

AAR Annual Meeting, Invited Panelist

San Diego, CA, 2014

G-DOG and Out of the Fire

Screening of my original short film and Discussion

San Diego, CA 2014

"Swimming (Very Fast) with Sharks with a Little Knife": Muslim and Christian Reflections on Religiously-Inspired Filmmaking Today (blind peer-reviewed paper)

International Religion, Media and Culture Conference,

Canterbury England, August 5, 2014

Theme: A Century of Visual Culture and Evangelical Christianity

Baltimore, Nov. 23, 2013

AAR Annual Meeting, Chaired session

USC's Religion, Politics, and Culture in Southern California Working Group

Sept. 2012-2014

Invited member of research group of select area scholars chaired by Diane Winston and Richard Flory

Nature and Grace in the Cosmos: Terrence Malick's Tree of Life

Chicago, Nov. 19, 2012

AAR Annual Meeting, Chaired panel

UC Riverside's Institute for the Study of Immigration and Religion Launch Event

June 1, 2012

Respondent to Research Papers and Commentator

CSUF Symposium on 'Social Service to Social Change' Religion and Public Life

April 16, 2012

Respondent to keynote speaker Dr. Richard Flory

Burning through the Celluloid Ceiling: Women Directors Discuss Challenges and Spirituality in Filmmaking

San Francisco, CA Monday, Nov. 21 2011

AAR Annual Meeting, Chair, Organizer, and Respondent for panel

"It Broke my Heart a Little": Disneyland Hijab Controversies and Muslim Accommodation in the Public Square (blind peer-reviewed paper)

March 26, 2011

WESCOR Annual Meeting, presented paper and created short doc film for presentation

Feminist Intercultural Theology: Latina Explorations for a Just World

Nov. 18, 2007

AAR Annual Meeting, Chaired and organized panel

Beyond Mestizaje: Revisiting Race, Syncretism, and Hybridity

November 20, 2006

AAR Annual Meeting, Chaired panel

Washington, D.C.

A Border-Crossing Jesus: A Socio-political Reading of the Salvadoran Celebration of La Bajada in Los Angeles (blind peer-reviewed paper)

Philadelphia, November 21, 2005

AAR Annual Meeting (Religion and Social Sciences Section-blind peer-reviewed)

"I Get Goosepimples!" Transnational Ritual: The Transfiguration of the Salvadoran Divine Savior of the World

AAR Annual Meeting (blind peer-reviewed paper)

Philadelphia, November 22, 2005

The Undocumented Image: How a Salvadoran Jesus Reunited with His People in the U.S.

Regional AAR WESCOR Conference (blind peer-reviewed paper)

Whittier, CA, March 22nd, 2004

The Politics of Latina/o Popular Religion

WESCOR/AAR Conference (blind peer-reviewed paper)

Moraga, CA March, 2002

It All Came Rushing Back to Me: Salvadoran Identity & the Festival of La Bajada

Institute of Diaspora Studies Conference (blind peer-reviewed paper)

San Diego, CA September

28, 2002

Encountering the God of Life in the Streets of East Los Angeles: Angeleno Adaptations of Latino Popular Religion

UCLA's Center for the Study of Religion

Los Angeles, CA May 23, 2001

From the Margins to the Streets: Angeleno Latino Popular Religion & Transnational R-evolution (blind peer-reviewed paper)

Association for the Scientific Study of Religion Conference,

Anaheim, CA August 2001

Blessed Broken Bodies: Exploring Redemption in Brazilian and Danish Film

AAR Annual Meeting, (blind peer-reviewed paper)

Denver, CO. November 2001

Religion & the Media: Discussing the Divine in Television, Radio, and Print

Envisioned, organized, hosted, and moderated the campus-wide event,

USC, April 25th, 2000

From Machões to Maricones: Exploring Male Sexuality and Religion in Mexico & Brazil

AAR National Annual Meeting, (blind peer-reviewed paper)

Nashville, TN 2000

Pacifist Pioneers and Second Generation Rebels: The State of Women Theologians in

Brazil Today (blind peer-reviewed paper)

AAR Annual Meeting, Florida, 1998

Public Intellectual work in Religion and Film:

Critical film reviews, original films, public lectures, podcasts, interviews

Podcast: "Religion and Movies" hosted by The Center for Religion and American Culture (Indiana University)

March 16th, 2023

One of three invited experts speaking on the intersection of religion, culture, & film.

Inspiring Voices-The Healing Power of Stories Speaker Series

March 2nd, 2023

Sole featured speaker on my new book *Religion and Film: The Basics* and discussion of award-winning film, *Minari*

St. Edmund's Church, San Marino, CA

Sundance Film Festival-Attended as Film Critic for *Journal of Religion and Film*

Sundance Film Reviews 2010, 2012, 2013, 2019 published in *The Journal of Religion and Film*

Cup 'o Joe (original short film)

March 2011

Produced and directed this narrative short comedic film. Selected as finalist at 168 International Film Festival.

Transnational Jesus: A Salvadoran Jesus Reunites with His People in the U.S. Documentary Film

Documentary Screening, The Cathedral Center

Los Angeles, CA August 11, 2004

Documentary Screening, California State University, Fullerton

Fullerton, CA October 24, 2004

Documentary Screening, University of Southern California

Los Angeles, CA Nov. 6, 2004

Documentary Screening, AAR Annual Meeting 2005

Philadelphia, PA November 20, 2005

Documentary Screening, Hollywood Presbyterian Church,

Hollywood CA, August 27, 2006

WATER

Los Angeles, The Director's Guild, Oct. 21, 2007

Commentator-invited panelist for the film *WATER* at City of Angels Film Festival

Fellowships, Grants, and Honors

- Dean's Research Award for Associate Professors** Fall, 2018
\$2,000 competitive award to support research for Associate Professors (*Religion and Film: The Basics* book)
- Extraordinary and Sustained Service Faculty Recognition Award, Cal State Fullerton** Fall, 2017
A competitive award given in recognition of superior service by a faculty member
- Outstanding Teaching Faculty Recognition Award, Cal State Fullerton** Fall, 2016
A competitive award granted to recognize innovative and creative teaching practices.
- HSS Exceptional Service to Students Award** 2016-17
Competitive award for 3 units of assigned time.
- HSS International Travel Grant for Research and Scholarly Presentations** Fall, 2014
Award granted to support scholarly presentations abroad (\$1,000)
- M.A.G. Fund for Scholarly and Creative Activities Award** Spring 2012
Hijabs, Hatred, and Hope: Muslims in the Public Square in Orange County, California
- University of Notre Dame, Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion, selected as One of the Fifty Most Effective/Outstanding Teachers of Introductory Theology and Religion in the United States** Fall 2004-2007
After a national search of nominated scholars who exemplify creative and progressive pedagogical strategies in introductory courses, I was selected for this study and given two honorariums. The groundbreaking study resulted in a book: *Teaching and Learning in College Introductory Religion Courses* (Blackwell, 2008). I later offered workshops to faculty at other institutions and shared these pedagogical strategies.
- Faculty Development Center, Cal State Fullerton Untenured-Faculty Research Grant and Teaching Grant** 2004
Release time and funds to turn my field research on a Salvadoran immigrant religious festival into a documentary film and article.
- Cal State Fullerton Information Literacy Grant** Winter 2003
This thousand dollar grant was the result of designing curricula that helped students become more adept at discovering and critically evaluating the limitless amount of information available to them.
- Louisville Institute Grant** Summer 2002
Project: *Encountering the God of Life on the Streets of East L.A.: Angeleno/a Latino Popular Religion*
This \$8,000 Lilly-Funded Summer Stipend for scholars researching Religion in America supported my work on Latino/a Popular Religion in Los Angeles.
- Boisi Center for the Study of Religion Fellow** Summer 2002
Project: *God in the Streets: Latino/a Popular Religious Celebrations in the City of Angels*
I was selected as one of ten junior scholars nation-wide to take part in their Lived Religion Workshop led by Nancy Ammerman, R Marie Griffith and Alan Wolfe.
- Cal State Fullerton Technology Grant** Summer 2001
This thousand-dollar university grant and training supported my increasing desire to incorporate technology into the classroom.

Graduate School Honors and Fellowships

Doctorate awarded Distinction, The Divinity School	1999
Fellow, Jerald C. Brauer Seminar, The Divinity School	1995
Divinity School Scholarship	1989-98

Teaching Experience

Associate Professor, California State University, Fullerton	2008-Present
Assistant Professor, California State University, Fullerton,	2001-2008
Visiting Professor, Harvey Mudd College, Claremont Colleges	Fall 2005
Visiting Asst. Professor (Full Time-1.5 yrs), University of Southern California, School of Religion	2000-01
Lecturer, Cal State Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA	Summer 1999

Courses Taught at CSUF (21 total)

RLST 105: Religion and the Quest for Meaning	
RLST 110: Religions of the World	
RLST 110-50: Religions of the World (online)	
RLST 200: Introduction to Christianity	
RLST 300: Methods of Studying Religion	
RLST 311: Religion and Film*	
RLST 333: Religion and Sexuality*	
RLST 352: History and Development of Modern Christian Thought	
RLST 352-50: History and Development of Modern Christian Thought (online)	
RLST 367: Religion in Latina/o Life*	
RLST 370: New Religious Movements in the USA	
RLST 400: Religion, Media, and Contemporary Culture	
RLST 400-50: Religion, Media, and Contemporary Culture (online)	
SOCI/RLST 458: Sociology of Religious Behavior	
RLST 485: Major Religious Thinkers and Concepts (Senior Capstone Seminar-Variou Topics)	
• Religion and Immigration	
• Religion and Creative Expression (the Arts)	
• Religion on the Stage and Screen	
• Religion in Documentary Film	
• Religion and Film	

HCOM 102: Seminar in Oral Communication

HONORS 101B: Oral Communication

HONORS 302: World Cinema

*Original courses I envisioned and shepherded through the new course proposal process.

Service

Professional Service-National and International

Main coordinator for the International Religion & Film Conference, Hollywood, Summer 2024	(2021-2024)
The University of Chicago Divinity School Alumnae Leadership Network	2017-ongoing
Board of Directors, <i>Journal of Religion and Film</i>	2017-ongoing
American Academy of Religion (AAR) Religion & Visual Culture Group, Co-Chair (elected position)	2014-2020
AAR Religion and Visual Culture Group, Steering Committee (elected position)	2008-2014
AAR Religion in Latin America & the Caribbean Group, Co-Chair (elected position)	2003-2007
AAR Religion in Latin America & the Caribbean Group, Steering Committee (elected position)	2000-2003

Peer Review of articles, books, and Film Reviews for *Journal of Religion and Film* 2013-Present
 Peer Review for *Journal of Religion and Popular Culture* 2018-ongoing

University and College Service

University Senate Library Committee 2018-2020
 Organizer of Alumni-Community University Event: Flor Edwards and the Children of God Dec., 2018
 Organizer of campus-wide Father Greg and the Homeboys Event, *Tattoos on the Heart* Feb. 14, 2017
 Honors Program Faculty Spring 2017-Present
 HSS International Study Abroad Committee 2015-2017
 Faculty Hearing Panel 2012-2014
 Graduation Service, have served as Marshall or Name reader for more than 10 graduations 2002-2019
 Chaired Panel for CSUF Social Justice Summit on Religion and Social Justice April 22, 2006
 Mentor for Latinx Students Cal State Fullerton, 2001-2003
 Guest Lecturer, CSUF CLE Lecture series on Religion in America Today Fullerton, CA November, 2002

Departmental Service

Chair, Department Personnel Committee 2019-2020
 Chair, Faculty Search Committee for new Tenure-Track Position 2017-2018
 Student Advisor 2013-Present
 Coordinator of Alumni and University event: Flor Edwards and Children of God Cult December, 2018
 Coordinator of major campus-wide event sponsored by Department: February 14th, 2017
Father Greg Boyle & Homeboy Industries: Tattoos on the Heart (attended by more than 300)
 Faculty Advisor for Comparative Religion Student Association (12 years) 2005-2007 & 2009-2019
 Department Personnel Committee, member 2008-2022
 RLST Alumni Coordinator 2008-Present
 Organized First CPRL Student Film Festival-Screened Original Doc films made by our seniors April 2011
 Co-Author, General Education Curriculum Review of Comparative Religion Courses 2001
 Host-Department Community Building: Opened my home to host *many* student and faculty events from an Alumni Gathering (2014), to a senior showcase performance (2016) to a formal Welcome feast for New tenure-track faculty member (2018) to over 10 seminar dinners just for students. 2005-2021

Community/Advocacy Service:

Invited Featured Speaker on Religion and Film, St. Edmunds Episcopal Church March 2nd, 2023
 Vice-President, Booster Club, Crescenta Valley High School, GVB 2020-2023
 Glendale Public Library-Organized city-wide Youth Film Festival 2013
 Classroom Parent Coordinator & Library Volunteer Glen Oaks Elementary School, Glendale CA 2010-16
 Chevy Chase Library Volunteer-organized educational events for local library 2010-2014
 Transnational Savior Lecture, Hollywood Presbyterian Church, Adult ed lecture 2007
 University Gables Community Organizer (M.U.G.S.) 2002-2009
 S.A.N.A. (Salvadoran American National Association) 2001-2006
 PERU FOR PEACE; CISPES (solidarity group for El Salvador). advocacy/educational organizations 1990-97
 Public Housing Rehabber (Cabrini Green Projects) & Community Tutor, LaSalle Street Church, Chicago, 1990-96
 ESL Instructor, Travelers & Immigrants Aid, 1992-93 and Hollywood City Dwellers, 1996

International Travel and Study

Jordan, Palestine (West Bank), Israel: Personal trip throughout Israel and Jordan. December 2022-January 2023.
Amsterdam, NL: I moderated several panels and was featured on a 2-scholar panel on publishing in the field at the International Conference on Religion and Film June 8-10, 2022.
England: I participated in 2 academic conferences in 2014: a 2-week Oxbridge Conference hosted by the C.S. Lewis Institute and the International Society for Religion, Media, and Culture Conference in Canterbury, England, August 4-6, 2014 where I presented a paper that was blind peer-reviewed.

Turkey: In July 2009 I traveled throughout Turkey with a department colleague on a cross-cultural tour hosted by the Pacifica Institute. I use this experience to deepen my teaching on Islam.

Europe: I lived in England during my entire junior year of college:1986-87 as well as living in Rome the summer of 1987. I traveled throughout Europe (9 countries) from 2014-2022.

Latin America: I have traveled extensively throughout Latin America engaged in research on religion. Dissertation research was conducted throughout Brazil, 1996-1997. I pursued research in Peru and Bolivia, 1992; Guatemala and El Salvador, 1991; Mexico, myriad trips,1990-2021.

I am a strong supporter of international educational experiences and scholarship for both students and faculty.