

SHELLEY L. BIRDSONG

Associate Professor of Religious Studies
North Central College
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EDUCATION

- 2014 Ph.D. Religion: Hebrew Bible
 Claremont Graduate University
- 2008 M.A. Interdisciplinary Studies: Hebrew Bible and Philosophy of Religion
 Claremont School of Theology
- 2004 B.A. Biblical Studies, Philosophy Minor
 Azusa Pacific University

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

- 2025– Professor of Spirituality & Religion
2020–2025 Associate Professor of Religious Studies
2017–2020 Assistant Professor of Religious Studies
2015–2017 Visiting Assistant Professor of Religious Studies
 North Central College
- 2014–2015 Visiting Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies
 Azusa Pacific University—High Sierra Program
- 2013–2014 Lecturer in Hebrew Bible
 Claremont School of Theology
- 2010–2014 Research Associate
 Ancient Biblical Manuscript Center
- 2009–2014 Lecturer in Biblical Studies and English
 Azusa Pacific University

PUBLICATIONS

Monographs and Commentaries

- 2025 *Judges*. [Smyth & Helwys Bible Commentary](#). Macon, GA: Smyth & Helwys, in progress.
- 2017 [The Last King\(s\) of Judah: Zedekiah and Sedekias in the Hebrew and Old Greek Versions of Jeremiah 37\(44\):1–40\(47\):6](#). FAT II/89. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2017.

Edited Volumes

- 2023 [Reading Gender in Judges: An Intertextual Approach](#). Edited by Shelley L. Birdsong, J. Cornelis de Vos, and Hyun Chul Paul Kim. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2023.

- 2017 [*Partners with God: Theological and Critical Readings of the Bible in Honor of Marvin A. Sweeney*](#). Edited by Shelley L. Birdsong and Serge Frolov. Claremont, CA: Claremont Press, 2017.

Bible Translation

- 2022 “Jeremiah 1–20.” New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, Updated Edition. Society of Biblical Literature and National Council of Churches. Co-edited by Richard Weis.

Bible Annotations

- 2024 “1 Samuel.” Pages 379–421 in *The Westminster Study Bible*. NRSVue. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2024.

Online Journal Articles

- 2024 “[Reviewing ‘The Oxford Handbook on Feminist Approaches to the Hebrew Bible’ by Susane Scholz](#)” with Carol J. Dempsey, Rachel Adelman, Holly Morse, and Susanne Scholz. *lectio difficilior: European Electronic Journal for Feminist Exegesis*. Universität Bern. 2024.
- 2017 “[Engaging Biblical Plurality: The Zedekiahs in the Books of Jeremiah](#).” *The Bible and Interpretation*. The University of Arizona. June 2017.

Online Annotated Bibliography

- 2021 “[Jeremiah](#)” with Marvin A. Sweeney. *Oxford Bibliographies in Biblical Studies*. Revised edition. Ed. Christopher Matthews. New York: Oxford University Press, 2021. First edition, 2018. DOI:10.1093/OBO/ 9780195393361-0060.

Book Chapters

- 2025 “Jeremiah, Lamentations, Baruch, Letter of Jeremiah.” *The Miraculous and the Biblical Traditions*. Edited by Graham H. Twelftree. Leiden, Netherlands: Brill, forthcoming.
- 2024 “Seeing God While Female: Blessing or Curse?” Pages 79–94 in *Topics of Theology of the Hebrew Scriptures*, vol. 2. Edited by Soo Kim and David Frankel. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2024.
- 2023 “Re-reading Samson’s ‘Weepy Wife’ in Judges 14: An Intertextual Evaluation of Gender and Weeping.” *Reading Gender in Judges: An Intertextual Approach*. Edited by Shelley L. Birdsong, J. Cornelis de Vos, and Paul Kim. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2023.
- 2020 “The Narratives about Isaiah in Isa 36–39.” Pages 95–110 in [*The Oxford Handbook of Isaiah*](#). Edited by Lena-Sofia Tiemeyer. Cambridge: Oxford University Press, 2020.
- 2017 “Pots, Pits, and Promises: Jeremiah as Allusion to Genesis.” Pages 297–309 in [*Partners with God: Theological and Critical Readings of the Bible in Honor of Marvin A. Sweeney*](#). Edited by Shelley L. Birdsong and Serge Frolov. Claremont, CA: Claremont Press, 2017.
- 2013 “Who Determines Conversion? A Response to Gary Gilbert.” Pages 29–34 in *Conversion: Claremont Studies in the Philosophy of Religion, Conference 2011*. Religion in Philosophy and Theology 70. Edited by Ingolf U. Dalferth and Michael Ch. Rodgers. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2013.

Essays

- 2015 “Transforming Minor Characters in Jeremiah.” *The Folio: Bulletin of the Ancient Biblical Manuscript Center* 32.1 (Spring 2015): 3, 5–6.
- 2014 “Au Revoir Ancient Biblical Manuscript Center!” *The Folio: Bulletin of the Ancient Biblical Manuscript Center* 31.1 (Spring 2014): 5.
- 2013 “Manuscripts 101: 1QIsa^a.” *The Folio: Bulletin of the Ancient Biblical Manuscript Center* 30.2 (Fall 2013): 4.
- 2013 “Manuscripts 101: Codex Bezae.” *The Folio: Bulletin of the Ancient Biblical Manuscript Center* 30.1 (Spring 2013): 8.
- 2011 “Manuscripts 101: Habakkuk Pesher.” *The Folio: Bulletin of the Ancient Biblical Manuscript Center* 28.2 (Fall 2011): 5.
- 2010 “Manuscripts 101: E.J.G. 108.” *The Folio: Bulletin of the Ancient Biblical Manuscript Center* 27.2 (Fall 2010): 4.
- 2010 “Manuscripts 101: 1QDan^b.” *The Folio: Bulletin of the Ancient Biblical Manuscript Center* 27.1 (Spring 2010): 3.
- 2008 “Dr. De Troyer’s Farewell Lecture,” with Tyler Mayfield. *The Folio: Bulletin of the Ancient Biblical Manuscript Center* 25.1 (Spring 2008): 3, 8.

Dictionary Entries

- 2019 “Luhith” and “Lye.” *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception* (eds. Dale C. Allison, et. al. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2019), currently available online.
- 2018 “Lime, Limestone,” “Loin Cloth HB/OT,” and “Lo-ruhamah.” *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception* (eds. Dale C. Allison, et. al. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2018), 16:694–95; 1032–33; 1191–92.
- 2017 “Joel: Book and Person HB/OT.” *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception* (eds. Dale C. Allison, et. al. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2017), 14:414–16.
- 2016 “Jehoshaphat, Valley of.” *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception* (eds. Dale C. Allison, et. al. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2016), 13:856–57.
- 2015 “Geruth-Chimham.” *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception* (eds. Dale C. Allison, et. al. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2015), 10:135–36.
- 2014 “Gareb,” “Gebim,” “Gedaliah Son of Pashhur,” “Gemariah Son of Hilkiah,” and “Gemariah Son of Shaphan.” *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception* (eds. Dale C. Allison, et. al. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2014), 9:985, 1059, 1093.

Book Reviews for *Review of Biblical Literature*

Amy C. Cottrill, *Uncovering Violence: Reading Biblical Narrative as an Ethical Project* (October 2023); Rhiannon Graybill and Lynn R. Huber, eds., [The Bible, Gender, and Sexuality: Critical Readings](#) (October 2021); Jeanette Matthews, [Prophets as Performers](#) (April 2021); Joy Schroeder, trans. and ed., [The Book of Jeremiah](#) (May 2018).

Book Reviews for *Religious Studies Review*

Graham S. Ogden and Lynell Zogbo, *A Handbook on Judges* 46.1 (March 2020): 80–81; Laura A. Smit and Stephen E. Fowl, *Judges & Ruth* 45.4 (December 2019): 512; Marianne Grohmann and Hyun Chul Paul Kim, eds., *Second Wave Intertextuality and the Hebrew Bible in Religious Studies Review* 45.4 (December 2019): 511; Nevada Levi DeLapp, *Theophanic Type-Scenes: in the Pentateuch: Visions of YHWH* 45.1 (March 2019): 63–64; Walter Brueggemann, *Money and Possessions* 44.2 (June 2018): 216–17; Nyasha Junior, *An Introduction to Womanist Biblical Interpretation* 44.2 (June 2018): 217–18; Terry Lindvall, *God Mocks* 44.2 (June 2018): 218; James Crenshaw, *Qohelet: The Ironic Wink* 41.4 (Dec. 2015): 189; Hanna Liss and Manfred Oeming, eds., *Literary Construction of Identity in the Ancient World in Religious Studies Review* 39.2 (June 2013): 102–03; Randall Heskett and Brian Irwin, eds., *The Bible as a Human Witness to Divine Revelation: Hearing the Word of God Through Historically Dissimilar Traditions* 39.2 (June 2013): 102; James T. Sparks, *The Chronicler's Genealogies: Towards an Understanding of 1 Chronicles 1–9* 36.2 (June 2010): 145; Michael D. Coogan, *A Brief Introduction to the Old Testament: The Hebrew Bible in Its Context* 35.4 (Dec. 2009): 259; Susan Gillingham, *Psalms Through the Centuries: Volume One* 35.4 (Dec. 2009): 260.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- 2023 “Lamentations.” Bethany Presbyterian Church. Grants Pass, OR. August 2023.
- 2022 “Judges.” Beth Shalom. Naperville, IL. February and March 2022.
- 2021 “Bigger Tents.” Naperville Pride Interfaith Service. Naperville, IL. September 5, 2021.
- 2021 “Biblical Interpretation and Jonah.” Bethany Presbyterian Church. Grants Pass, OR. January 2021.
- 2020 “Advent, Isaiah, and Our Jewish Neighbors.” Bethany Presbyterian Church. Grants Pass, OR. December 2020.
- 2020 “There’s More than One Way to Read the Bible.” Community United Methodist Church. Naperville, IL. February 2020.
- 2019 “Allusions in Jeremiah 34: Speaking Truth to Enslaving Powers.” Community United Methodist Church. Naperville, IL. November 2019.
- 2018 Response to Florian Klug’s “The Iconic Being of the Scripture: The Surplus of the Bible.” North Central College. Naperville, IL. February 21, 2018.
- 2017 “Reconceptualizing the Cracks.” North Central College Breakfast. Northern Illinois Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. Naperville, IL. June 6, 2017.
- 2016 “Hijab, Higher Education, and Religious Harmony: An Interfaith Dialogue on Larycia Hawkins and Wheaton College.” North Central College. Naperville, IL. February 2, 2016.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

- 2023 Panelist, Suzanne Scholz’s *OUP Handbook of Feminist Approaches to the Hebrew Bible*. Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting. November 19, 2023.

- 2023 Panelist, *The Prophetic Imagination: A Tribute and Reassessment*. Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting. November 20, 2023.
- 2021 “Disaster and Disinformation: Reading Jeremiah During a Pandemic.” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting. November 19, 2021.
- 2020 “Troubling Text Criticism and the Deuteronomistic History.” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting. Invited but cancelled due to Covid.
- 2019 “Slavery and the Sword: An Intertextual Reading of Jeremiah 34.” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting. November 25, 2019.
- 2018 “Re-reading Samson’s ‘Weepy Wife’ in Judges 14: An Intertextual Evaluation of Gender and Weeping.” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting. November 17, 2018.
- 2017 “The Women Who Saw God.” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting. November 19, 2017.
- 2015 Panelist, “Human Trafficking, Forced Migrations, and the Bible.” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting. November 23, 2015.
- 2014 “Sub-creation and Procreation as the Imago Dei: Tolkien and Genesis in Dialogue.” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting. November 24, 2014.
- 2014 “Getting to Know You in the Biblical Sense.” Society of Biblical Literature West Coast Region Conference. March 30, 2014.
- 2013 “Castrating Cushites and (Con)texts.” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting. November 25, 2013.
- 2013 “Who Wrote Isaiah 6 and Why? A Redaction Critical Survey and Interpretation.” Society of Biblical Literature West Coast Region Conference. March 25, 2013.
- 2013 “Castrating Cushites and (Con)texts.” Sixth Annual Religions in Conversation Conference, Claremont Graduate University. February 22, 2013.
- 2012 Response to Beau Harris, “May I Approach the Whirlwind, Your Honor? Contexts for Translating and Hearing Job’s Final Words.” The Inaugural Hebrew Bible Research Colloquium, Claremont School of Theology. April 27, 2012.
- 2011 “Psalm 151 as Sacred Scripture at Qumran.” Society of Biblical Literature West Coast Region Conference. March 26, 2011.
- 2010 “MT, 4QSam^a, and the Greek Texts of 1 Samuel 1.24-25 as Distinct Textual Traditions.” Society of Biblical Literature West Coast Region Conference. March 15, 2010.
- 2009 “Evil Kings and Their Divinely Murdered Children: A Didactic and Symbolic Paradigm Shift in Exodus 12:29–42, 2 Samuel 12:15b–23, and 1 Kings 14:1–18.” Society of Biblical Literature West Coast Region Conference. March 23, 2009.

POPULAR WRITING

- 2019 Contributor. *The Feminism Book: Big Ideas Simply Explained*. DK Publishing: London and New York: 2019.
- 2018 Contributor. *The Bible Book: Big Ideas Simply Explained*. DK Publishing: London and New York: 2018.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE TO NORTH CENTRAL COLLEGE

- 2024–2025 Faculty Development and Recognition Committee
2023–2025 College Scholars Committee
2023–2024 Committee Member for Faculty Review (Kotsko)
2020–2021 BIPOC Faculty Retention Committee
2019 Hiring Committee for Environmental Studies Faculty
2018–2021 Promotion and Tenure Committee
2018–2022 12:5 Community Worship Committee
2017–2020 Q Commons Committee
2015– Interdisciplinary Studies Faculty (History of Ideas, Middle Eastern and North African Studies, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Environmental Studies)
2017–2018 College Scholars Committee
2017 GE Task Force Sub-Committee: Cumulative Experience

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE TO COMMUNITY WITH OFFICES HELD

- 2024– Society of Biblical Literature, LGBTIQ+ Scholars and Scholarship Committee, Member
2021– United Methodist Church, Northern Illinois Conference, Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries, Member
2021– Society of Biblical Literature, Writing/Reading Jeremiah, Steering Committee Member
2017– Oxford University Press, Reviewer
2017–2022 Society of Biblical Literature, Intertextuality and the Hebrew Bible, Co-Chair
2015–2018 Claremont Press, Studies in HB/OT Monograph Series, Editorial Board Member
2010–2012 Society of Biblical Literature, Student Representative Liaison
2008–2010 Society of Biblical Literature, CGU Student Representative

HONORS, AWARDS, AND GRANTS

- 2023 Faculty Development and Recognition Summer Grant, North Central College (\$3,600)
2022 Faculty Development and Recognition Summer Grant, North Central College (\$4,500)
2022 Sabbatical Award, North Central College (8 credit release)
2019 Faculty Development and Recognition Summer Grant, North Central College (\$3,737)
2018 Faculty Development and Recognition Summer Grant, North Central College (\$3,720)
2017 Junior Faculty Enhancement Grant, North Central College (6 credit release)
2008 President's Award for Academic Excellence, Claremont School of Theology
2008 Award for Excellence in Biblical Studies, Claremont School of Theology
2008 The Responsible Social Engagement Award, Claremont School of Theology
2004 Outstanding Senior Award in Biblical Studies, Azusa Pacific University
2004 Laudamas Award for Distinguished Library Service, Azusa Pacific University

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2008–2010 Hebrew Bible Fellowship, Claremont Graduate University
2000–2004 President’s Scholarship, Azusa Pacific University

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2015– North Central College
Introduction to World Religions; Introduction to the Bible; Old Testament; New Testament; Introduction to Judaism; Peace and Violence in the Bible; Women and the Bible; Bible Seminar; Evolution of God; Nature & Wellbeing; Honors Topics (Biblical Lament Literature, Short Stories by Jesus); Life Worth Living; Sex, Gender, and Sexuality; Theories of Gender and Sexuality; People and Nature; Sustainability

2013–2014 Claremont School of Theology
Biblical Hebrew (hybrid)

2009–2015 Azusa Pacific University
Introduction to Biblical Literature: Exodus-Deuteronomy; Hebrew Poetical and Wisdom Literature (traditional and online); Luke-Acts (traditional and online); Women in Biblical Tradition; Christian Classics; Hebrew; Freshman Writing

2009–2010 Claremont School of Theology, Teaching Assistant
Teaching the Bible in Context; Basic Aspects of the Study of the Hebrew Bible

2008–2010 ELS Educational Services
English as a Second Language

2003–2004 Azusa Pacific University, Tutor and Teaching Assistant
Introduction to Philosophy; History of Early Modern Philosophy; Philosophy of Religion

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, prophets, intertextuality, feminist criticism, biblical theology, gender theory, textual criticism, history of the ancient Near East, post-Shoah studies

GRADUATE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2007–2009 Research Assistant to Marvin Sweeney, Claremont School of Theology
2006–2008 Research Assistant to Kristin De Troyer, Claremont School of Theology

RESEARCH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

Full proficiency	Hebrew
Intermediate	Greek, Aramaic, and French
Basic	German, Spanish, and Akkadian

REFERENCES

Available upon request.