

Amy Laura Hall

Associate Professor of Christian Ethics and Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies

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Educational Background

Ph.D. Religious Studies—Yale University 1999
M.Div.—Yale Divinity School 1993
B.A. Political Science and Sociology—Emory University 1990

Recent Teaching

“Faith and Feminism in North Carolina,” Spring 2022, received “Top Instructors” commendation from Dean of Academic Affairs, Trinity College.

Trinity College, Program II reader for Candler Cusato, “Ritual, Metaphor, and the American Experience of the COVID-19 Pandemic” (2022) and Rowan Haffner, “Divine Wrath or Medical Mystery: The Evolution of Epilepsy in Early Religious and Medical Thought” (2025).

Recipient of the 2024 Association of Graduate Liberal Studies Programs Annual Faculty Award.

Introduction to Christian Ethics; Medical Ethics; Feminist Ethics; War and Christian Tradition; Sex, Gender, and Discipleship; Love in the Christian Tradition; Kierkegaard; War, Myth, and Masculinity (for Science and Society and Graduate Liberal Studies); American Protestantism in Literature and Film (for Graduate Liberal Studies); Race and Place in Durham, NC (collaboration with North Carolina Central University); American Protestantism, Scientific Progress, and National Identity (for Trinity College Focus); “To Boldly Go!” Global Health and the Ethics of Engagement (for Trinity College Focus), Faith and Feminism in North Carolina (for Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies).

Books

Erecting the Pulpit: Muscular Christianity from Teddy Roosevelt to Donald Trump. Forthcoming with Bloomsbury Academic, May 2026.

Laughing at the Devil: Seeing the World with Julian of Norwich. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2018.

Reviewed in *Library Journal*, *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics*; *The Catholic Library World*; *The Christian Century*; *Women’s Alliance for Theology, Ethics, and Ritual*; *Reading Religion*; *Studies in Christian Ethics*.

Writing Home, With Love: Political Essays for Neighbors and Nay-sayers. Eugene, OR: Cascade, 2016.

Conceiving Parenthood: American Protestantism and the Spirit of Reproduction. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, December 2007.

Starred review in *Publishers Weekly*; Jean Bethke Elshtain for *The Christian Century*, November, 2009; Margaret Bendroth for *Church History*, 2009; Christine Rosen for *The American Historical Review*, 2009; Wendy Kline for *American Studies*, 2009; John Wall for *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics*, 2009; Stephen Hart for *Journal of American History*, 2009. (Full list available on request.)

Kierkegaard and the Treachery of Love. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002.

Reviewed in *The Journal of Theological Studies*; *The Journal of Religion*, *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion*, *Heythrop Journal*, *Modern Theology*, *Theology Today*, *Danske teologiske tidsskrift*, *The Expository Times*.

Co-Edited Volumes

with Ayoush Lazikani. *Cambridge Companion to Julian of Norwich*. Current project; contract signed; 15/15 contributors secured.

with Daniel E. Arnold. *Toward a Moral Consensus Against Torture*. *The Muslim World* 103.2 (2013).

Journal Articles

“Liberal Studies? A Summons to Laugh at Midday.” *Confluence: The Journal of the AGLSP* 31.1 (2025): 8–11.

“Love in Everything: A Brief Primer to Julian of Norwich.” *The Princeton Seminary Bulletin* 32:1 (2015): 83–95.

“No Shortcut to the Promised Land: The Fosdick Brothers and Muscular Christianity.” *Ex Auditu* 29 (2013): 161–177.

“American TV and Torture.” *The Muslim World* 103.2. (2013): 267–286.

with Kara Slade. “The Single Individual in Ordinary Time.” *Studies in Christian Ethics* 26.1 (2013): 66–82.

“Whose Progress? The Language of Global Health.” *Journal of Medicine and Philosophy* 31 (2006): 285–304.

“Welcome to Ordinary? Masculinity and ADHD.” Open Peer Commentary, *American Journal of Bioethics* 5.3 (2005): 59–60.

“Ruth’s Resolve: On Care at the End of Life.” *Christian Bioethics* 11 (2005): 35–50.

“Public Bioethics and the Gratuity of Life.” *Studies in Christian Ethics* 18 (2005): 15–31.

“In What Sense Equal?” *The New Atlantis* 7 (Fall 2004–Winter 2005): 124–131.

“Prophetic Vulnerability and the Strange Goodness of God: A Reading of Numbers 22 and 1 Kings 17.” *Sevance Theological Review* 46 (2003): 340–350.

“Poets, Cynics and Thieves: Vicious Love and Divine Protection in Kierkegaard’s *Works of Love* and *Repetition*.” *Modern Theology* 16 (2000): 215–236.

“Self-Deception, Confusion, and Salvation in *Fear and Trembling* with *Works of Love*.” *Journal of Religious Ethics* 28 (2000): 37–61.

“Complicating the Command: *Agape* in Scriptural Context.” *Annual of the Society of Christian Ethics* 19 (1999): 97–113.

Chapters in Books and Entries in Reference Books

“Torture.” Essay in *Encyclopedia of Religious Ethics*, ed. William Schweiker. Wiley-Blackwell, Volume 3 – Chapter 161; 1399–1408. Wiley Blackwell, 2022.

“Love: A Holy Caprice.” In *The T&T Clark Companion to the Theology of Kierkegaard*, ed. David Gouwens and Aaron Edwards, 403–421. New York: Bloomsbury T&T Clark, 2019.

“His Eye is on the Sparrow: Collectivism and Human Significance.” In *Why People Matter: A Christian Engagement with Rival Views of Human Significance*, ed. John Kilner, 39–63. Ada, MI: Baker Academic, 2017.

“Wesleyan Ethics” and “Imitation of Christ.” In *The Westminster Dictionary of Christian Ethics*, ed. J. Childress, C. Mathewes, and M. Mohrmann. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, completed and forthcoming.

- “A Ravishing and Restful Sight: Seeing with Julian of Norwich.” In *Disability in the Christian Tradition: A Reader*, ed. Brian Brock and John Swinton, 152–183. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2012.
- with Kara Slade. “What Would You Do if Someone Were Attacking a Loved One?” In *A Faith Not Worth Fighting For*, ed. Tripp York and Justin Bronson Barringer, 31–42. Eugene, OR: Cascade, 2012.
- “Justice.” *Global Wesleyan Dictionary of Theology*, ed. Al Truesdale, 285–287. Kansas City: Beacon Hill, 2012.
- “The Trinity and Moral Life: Julian’s Trinitarian Logic of Love and Contagion.” In *The Oxford Handbook of the Trinity*, ed. Gilles Emery and Matthew Levering, 493–504. Oxford/New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.
- “Parenthood.” In *The Dictionary of Scripture and Ethics*, ed. Joel B. Green, Jacqueline E. Lapsley, Rebekah Miles, and Allen Verhey, 578–580. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2011.
- “Charles Kingsley’s Christian Darwinism.” In *Theology After Darwin*, ed. Michael S. Northcott and R. J. Berry, 41–57. Colorado Springs, CO: Paternoster, 2009.
- “You Better Find Somebody to Love: Kierkegaard and Bioethics.” In *Transforming Philosophy and Religion: Love’s Wisdom*, ed. Bruce Benson and Norman Wirzba, 239–255. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2008.
- “Mainline Protestantism and the Popularization of Eugenics.” In *Theology, Disability and the New Genetics: Why Science Needs the Church*, ed. Brian Brock and John Swinton, 75–94. New York: T and T Clark, 2007.
- “Love: A Kinship of Affliction and Redemption.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Theological Ethics*, ed. Gilbert Meilaender and William Werpehowski, 472–488. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005.
- “Ethics.” In *The Encyclopedia of Protestantism*, ed. Hans J. Hillerbrand, 687–693. New York: Routledge, 2004.
- “The House of Mirth and a Rebuke of False Wisdom: A Case for Women’s Studies.” In *Conflicting Allegiances*, ed. Michael L. Budde and John Wright, 75–90. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2004.
- “Men at Work: Embodied Discipleship and Post-Industrial Masculinity.” In *The Blackwell Companion to Christian Ethics*, ed. Samuel Wells and Stanley Hauerwas, 82–94. Oxford: Blackwell, 2004.
- “‘The Law of Love’ – Repentance and the Restoration of Love.” In *The Wesleyan Tradition: A Paradigm for Renewal*, ed. Paul W. Chilcote, 175–188. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2002.
- “A Dispatch from Security.” In *Strike Terror No More: Theology, Ethics, and the New War*, ed. Jon L. Berquist, 292–295. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2002.
- “Stages on the Wrong Way.” In *Stages on Life’s Way: International Kierkegaard Commentary*, Vol. 11, ed. Robert L. Perkins, 9–47. Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 2000.
- “Agape.” In *Dictionary of Feminist Theologies*, ed. Letty M. Russell and J. Shannon Clarkson, 3–4. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 1996.

Select Short Essays

- “A Call to Solidarity at Duke.” *The Christian Century*, May 24, 2025.
- “The 4B movement's purity culture vibe is no answer to Trumpism.” *Religion News Service*, December 18, 2024.
- “Religious freedom arguments are a strategy for undermining public education.” *Religion News Service*, April 19, 2023.
- “The Gospels can be grim. They aren’t about ‘resilience.’” *Religion News Service*, January 6, 2023.

“For ‘sandwich generation’ women, make this Labor Day weekend a Labor ‘sabbath’.” *Religion News Service*, September 3, 2022.

“The ‘thousand points of light’ switcheroo.” *Religion News Service*, July 20, 2022.

“The architects of Roe’s demise aim to demoralize women. Let’s not let them.” *Religion News Service*, May 27, 2022.

“Abortion is not a culture war. It’s women making choices about their lives.” *Religion News Service*, March 9, 2022.

“Theologians were paid to think about alien life. I’d rather they watch ‘Spaceballs.’” *Religion News Service*, January 20, 2022.

“Stop gloating over COVID-19 deniers falling ill. Focus on the miracles of kindness.” *Religion News Service* (requested by the editors), August 19, 2021.

“Men Without Guns: A Tribute to Larry McMurtry.” *Religion Dispatches*, May 3, 2021.

“Beverly Cleary, Author of the Ramona Series, Understood Children, Shoes, School, Words, and How it Feels to be Heard, or Misunderstood.” *Religion Dispatches*, April 9, 2021.

“The Plague.” Author Guest Post, Duke University Press Blog, March 2020.

“Labor Unions Are for Safety and Creativity.” AFL-CIO Blog, September 13, 2019.

“Make ‘Labor Union’ Sense Common Again.” AFL-CIO Blog, September 5, 2018.

“Human Beings Are Not Investments.” Book Meets World, Author Guest Post, The Eerdmans Blog, April 2017.

Monthly columnist for the *Durham Herald Sun*, August 2013–June 2017. 47 800-word essays, available upon request.

“Why I Will Not Submit to Arrest, Or, The Problem with Moral Mondays.” *Religion Dispatches*, June 3, 2014.

“A Christian Vagina Monologue.” *The Other Journal*, February 2014.

“Restless Heart Syndrome.” *Religion Dispatches*, October 9, 2012.

“Post-Heroic Ministry.” *Prism*, January-February 2011, 21–23.

Entry in “What to Say about Hell: A Symposium.” *The Christian Century* 125 (2008): 22.

“For Shame? Why Christians Should Welcome, Rather than Stigmatize, Unwed Mothers and Their Children.” *Christianity Today* 50 (2006): 40–43.

“Better Homes and Children.” *Books & Culture*, November-December 2005, 18–20.

“On Reproduction and the Irreproducible Gift: Christ, Conception, and Biotechnology.” *The Cresset* 68: 1 (2004): 7–11. (Selected for *Best Christian Writing* 2006, ed. John Wilson. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.)

“Good Breeding: The Eugenics Temptation.” *The Christian Century* 121 (2004): 24–29.

“Full House.” *The Christian Century* 121 (2004): 9.

“Gridiron Glory.” *The Christian Century* 121 (2004): 53.

“Put to the Test: On Prenatal Testing and Hospitality.” *The Christian Century* 120 (2003): 32–36.

“Hospitality Spelled Backwards: Is Martha Stewart in League with the Devil?” *Regeneration Quarterly* 7 (2001): 27–28.

“Bold or Blessed New World? Theology and Genomics.” *ATLA Summary of Proceedings* 55 (2001): 83–85.

Select Lectures and Panel Presentations

Speaker, retreat leader, and preacher, St. Julian of Norwich Episcopal Church, Cedar Park, TX, October 17–19, 2025.

“Fitness and Muscular Christianity,” guest lecture for Jay M. Smith’s course “Big-Time College Sports and the Rights of Athletes, 1874 to the present,” at University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Spring Semester 2023 and 2024.

“The U.S. Supreme Court and pro-natal conservatism,” panel presentation for “Religion and Reproductive Justice in the Post-Dobbs Era,” sponsored by the Bioethics and Religion Unit and Religion and the Social Sciences Unit at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, November 2023.

“Abortion as Micro-History: Against a ‘Big History’ view of pregnancy,” concurrent panel presentation on “A Vision for Reproductive Ethics” at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Christian Ethics, Chicago, January 2023.

Technology and War. Lecture for The Chapel of the Cross Episcopal Church, Chapel Hill, NC, May 2022.

Featured author, Candler Women, Theology, and Ministry Program, Candler School of Theology, online, October 2020.

with Susan Breitzer, Ph.D. History, presentation on the history of Labor Day in the U.S. and the Labor Sabbath Effort in North Carolina, Congregation Beth El, Durham, North Carolina (online) August 2020.

Panelist “Engaging Communities of Faith through Broader Impacts.” Summit of Advancing Research Impacts in Society (ARIS), online, April 2020.

“‘All Shall Be Well,’ She Wrote. But There’s More to the Story.” *Christianity Today*, Prayer and Pandemic Radio Series, Episode 3, April 2020.

“Human Dignity and Sexuality.” Journeying Toward Justice Series, Epworth United Methodist Church, Durham, North Carolina, February 2020.

“Is Fear Your Only God? How a Medieval Visionary, Julian of Norwich, Teaches Courage, Still, Today.” Keynote presentation on *Laughing at the Devil: Seeing the World with Julian of Norwich*, Chautauqua Institution, New York, June 2019.

Featured author, panel discussion of *Laughing at the Devil: Seeing the World with Julian of Norwich*, Virginia Festival of the Book, Charlottesville, Virginia, March 2019.

Scholar in Residence, Foundry United Methodist Church, Washington, D.C., 2017.

“The Bloody Truth: Seeing with Julian of Norwich.” Women in Church and Ministry Lecture, Princeton Theological Seminary, February 2015.

Panelist “Interfaith Perspectives on Reproductive Health.” Lake Junaluska Peace Conference, North Carolina, March 2014.

Panelist “History of Religion and Public Health.” Practices, Peoples, Partnerships, and Politics: A Conference on Religion as a Social Determinant of Public Health, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia, November 2014.

Panelist “Bioethics and Ideology.” Third Annual Tarrytown Meeting, Tarrytown, New York, July 2012.

Phillip Wogaman Lecture, Foundry United Methodist Church, Washington, D.C., May 2010.

“Race and Social Darwinism in American Bioethics.” Presentation for “Senior Scholar Panel” on Religion and Bioethics at the American Academy for the Advancement of Science, San Diego, California, February 2010.

“Mainstream American Protestantism and Bioethics.” Presentation for meeting of the World Council of Churches in Volos, Greece, November 2009.

“The Christian Family: The Hope of the World?” Oxford Institute of Methodist Theological Studies, Christ Church, Oxford, August 2007.

“An Interest in the Savior’s Blood?” Charles Wesley Tercentennial Conference, Duke University, June, 2007.

“Disability, Children, and the *Century of Progress*.” Yale University's Interdisciplinary Center for Bioethics, April 2007.

Panelist on “Eugenics” for “Re-Engineering Human Biology: What Should be the Ethical and Legal Limits?” First major conference of the Petrie-Flom Center for Health Law Policy, Biotechnology, and Bioethics at Harvard Law School, March 2007.

“Civilization to the Savages? Missionaries, Medicine, and the Language of Global Health.” *Political Ethics and International Order*, Conference of the *Societas Ethica* (E.U.) and Society for the Study of Christian Ethics (U.K.), Wadham College, Oxford, August 2006.

“Holy Housekeeping? Well-Appointed Procreation and the Protestant Imagination.” *The World and Christian Imagination*, Baylor University, November 2006.

“*Human Mistakes and Mishaps: Disability, Children, and Atavism.*” Center for Bioethics, University of Minnesota, April, 2006.

“Defining the Human in Bioethics.” Health Care Ethics Group, Society of Christian Ethics, Annual Meeting, Phoenix, 2006.

“The Atomic Age and the Genomic Revolution.” Society of Christian Ethics, Annual Meeting, Phoenix, 2006.

Respondent, Childhood Studies and Religion Consultation, American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, 2005.

“Holy Husbandmen: The American Social Hygiene Association’s Program for Virility.” Presentation for the joint session of Men’s Studies in Religion Group and Disability Studies Group, American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, 2005.

“Reproductive Technologies and Women.” Genetics and Reproductive Ethics, 12th Annual International Conference of the Center for Bioethics and Human Dignity, Trinity International University, Deerfield, Illinois, July 2005.

“Procreation, Chaos, and Recalibrated Time.” Center for Catholic and Evangelical Theology, St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN, June 2005.

“Protestant Eugenics in the U.S.” Consortium on Genes, Genetics, and the Future of Persons, Centre for Spirituality, Health, and Disability, University of Aberdeen, May 2005.

“Hope and Rhetoric in the Atomic and Genomic Projects.” Centre for the Study of Religion and Politics, St. Andrews University, U.K., May 2005, and Ian Ramsey Centre Seminary, Oxford University, U.K., May 2005.

“Fitter Families for Future Firesides.” Lecture to graduate theology seminars of Cambridge University, U.K., April 2005 and Edinburgh University, U.K., May 2005.

“You Better Find Somebody to Love: Regarding Kierkegaard, Repro-Biotech, and the Pursuit of Mastery.” McManis Lecture at Wheaton College, and opening keynote lecture for *The Wisdom of Love*, Society for Continental Philosophy and Theology, Chicago, March 2005.

“The ‘Atomic Age’ and the ‘Genomic Revolution’: Rhetorics of Hope.” Institute of Genome Sciences and Policy, Duke University, March 2005.

“Eugenics, Justice, and Faith.” Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Lecture at Congregation Judea Reform, Durham, NC, January 2005.

“The Gift of Grace and the Gratuity of Life: The Public Witness of Joanna Jepsen.” Opening address for the Society for the Study of Christian Ethics, Annual Meeting, Oxford, England, September 2004.

“On Reproduction and the Irreproducible Gift: Christ, Conception, and Biotechnology.” The Kretzmann Lecture in Christian Social Ethics at Valparaiso University, March 2004.

Invited Participant (one of twelve) at a Conference on the Nature and Future of Bioethics, convened by Daniel Callahan, The Hastings Center, March 11–12, 2004.

Panel presentation on “Custom Kids? Genetic Testing of Embryos.” Genetics and Public Policy Center, Johns Hopkins University, Washington D.C., January 2004.

Highlighted author. “Kierkegaard on Love and Obligation: *Love’s Grateful Striving: A Commentary on Kierkegaard’s Works of Love*, by M. Jamie Ferreira (Oxford University Press, 2001) and *Kierkegaard and the Treachery of Love*, by Amy Laura Hall (Cambridge University Press, 2002).” American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, November 2003.

Chair. “Better People: Eugenics and the Church in U.S. History.” Panel at the American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, November 2003.

“The Marketplace of Fitter Families, Yesterday and Today.” Baylor Medical Center, November 2003.

“Privileged Parenting: The Protestant Work Ethic and Biotechnological Domesticity.” University of Aarhus, Denmark, September 2003.

“Crafting Compliance: Pharmaceuticals and Public Education in the U.S.” Society for the Study of Christian Ethics, Oxford, England, September 2003.

“Conceiving Parenthood in the U.S.” Consultation to the World Council of Churches, Washington D.C., May 2003; Geneva, Switzerland, September 2003.

“Scientists, Vampires, and Orphans: The Dickensian Warning of Jeune and Caro’s *Lost Children*.” Loyola University Humanities Symposium, Loyola, MD, March 2003.

“Children and Biotechnology.” Ethics and Public Policy Center, Washington D.C., March 2003.

“A Burro, Some Grackles, and the Strange Goodness of God: On Balaam and Elijah.” Society of Biblical Literature, Annual Meeting, Toronto, Canada, November 2002.

“The Corporate Breast: The Formula Industry and Pediatric Bioethics,” Pew Christian Scholars Lecture, University of Texas, Austin, TX, October 2002.

- “Sex, Reproduction, and Gender Ethics in the U.S.” Graduate Seminar, University of Zurich Ethics Centre, Zurich, Switzerland, June 2002.
- “The Corporate Breast: The Formula Industry and Pediatric Bioethics.” Pew Christian Scholars Lecture, University of California, San Diego, San Diego, CA , March 2002.
- “To Form a More Perfect Union: The Fitter Family Movement Then and Now.” Center for Genome Ethics, Law, and Policy, Durham, NC, December 2001.
- “Freedom, Wisdom, and the Human Genome Project.” Duke Alumni Association, Durham, NC, April 2001.
- “Mere Wine, Mere Land, Mere Blastocyst? The Case Against Embryonic Stem Cell Research.” Duke Center for the Study of Medical Ethics and the Humanities, Durham, NC , February 2001.
- “The Freedom and Bondage of a Christian: Luther and Kierkegaard on Indebted Love.” Society of Christian Ethics, Annual Meeting, Vancouver, Canada, January 2001.
- “Constructing the Malleable Other in *In Vino Veritas* and Via Internet.” Søren Kierkegaard Society of the American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting, Nashville, TN, November 2000.
- “Does Genomics Pose New Ethical Questions?” Opening Panel Presentation for Institute for Genome Sciences and Policy, Duke University, Durham, NC, May 2000.
- “The Perils of Choice: Procreative Options and the Denial of Difference.” Disability and Religion Consultation of the American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL, November 1998.
- “The Case Against Knowledge: Paul Ramsey’s Prohibition of Medical Research on Children.” Yale/Harvard/Boston College Ethics Colloquium, Boston, MA, April 1998.

Select Divinity School Service

- United Methodist Elder, Rio Texas Conference, 2002–present.
- Faculty Mentor, Sacred Worth and Divinity Pride, LGBTQ student associations at Duke Divinity School, 1999–present.
- Founding Faculty Member, Certificate in Gender, Sexuality, Theology, and Ministry program, Duke Divinity School.

Select University Service

- Founding President of the Duke Chapter of the American Association of University Professors, 2023–2025.
- Vice President of the North Carolina Conference of the American Association of University Professors, 2022–2026.
- Lead of Organizing Team, Exhibit: Waging Peace in Vietnam, Duke University, Winter 2020.
- Lead of Organizing Team, Workshop: The Color of Public Education, with legal scholar Richard Rothstein, October, 2018, Durham.
- Lead of Organizing Team, Conference: Against the Use of Drones in Warfare, including notable scholars and journalists from across the U.S., Duke and Durham, October, 2017.
- Planning Committee, NCCU-Duke Program in African, African American and Diaspora Studies, 2013–2017.
- Lead of Organizing Team, Conference: Toward a Moral Consensus Against Torture, including notable scholars and journalists from across the U.S., Duke and Durham, March, 2011.