

ALEXIS WELLS-OGHOGHOMEH

Department of Religious Studies
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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Emory University, Religion, 2015
- M.Div. Emory University, *Magna Cum Laude*, 2007
- B.A. Spelman College, English, *Summa Cum Laude*, Phi Beta Kappa, 2004

EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor, Vanderbilt University, Department of Religious Studies, July 2015 – Present

BOOKS

The Souls of Womenfolk: The Religious Cultures of Enslaved Women in the Lower South, University of North Carolina Press, (Fall 2021).

JOURNAL ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

“Re-evaluating Roots: Slavery as Source and Challenge for African-American Theology.” In *T&T Clark Companion to African American Theology*, ed. Frederick L. Ware, Antonia M. Daymond, Eric Lewis Williams, 19-31. London: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2019.

“She Come Like a Nightmare: Hags, Witches, and the Gendered Trans-Sense among the Enslaved in the Lower South.” *The Journal of Africana Religions*, 5, No. 2 (2017): 239-274.

“The Gendered Ethics of Female Enslavement: Searching for Southern Slave Women’s Religiosity in the African Atlantic.” *The Journal of Southern Religion*, 18 (2016): jsreligion.org/vol18/wells.

Kaiser, Bonnie N., Dennis M. Mishler, Whitney A. Peoples, Alexis S. Wells. “Undergraduate Research and a Liberal Arts Education: Similar Goals, Similar Solutions.” *Journal of College Science Teaching* 43, No. 5 (May/June 2014): 36-42.

BOOK REVIEWS

Review of *Being Muslim: A Cultural History of Women of Color in American Islam*, by Sylvia Chan-Malik. *American Religion*. (forthcoming)

Review of *Your Sister in the Gospel: The Life of Jane Manning James, A Nineteenth Century Black Mormon*, by Quincy D. Newell. *Mormon Studies Review*. (forthcoming)

“Race and Religion in the Afterlife of Protestant Supremacy.” Forum on *Christian Slavery: Conversion and Race in the Protestant Atlantic World*, by Katharine Gerbner. *Church History* 88, Issue 3 (September 2019): 767-772.

“Spirits of the Landscape Rediscovered: Ras Michael Brown’s *African-Atlantic Cultures and the South Carolina Lowcountry*.” Review of *African-Atlantic Cultures and the South Carolina Lowcountry*, by Ras Michael Brown. *Southern Spaces*, August 26, 2013.
<http://www.southernspaces.org/2013/spirits-landscape-rediscovered>.

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

Wells, Alexis S. “Sanctifying the Senses: Thoughts on *Beyoncé* as Liberative Praxis.” *Sacred Matters: Religious Currents in Culture*, January 21, 2014.
<https://scholarblogs.emory.edu/sacredmatters/2014/01/21/sanctifying-the-senses-thoughts-on-beyonce-as-liberative-praxis/>.

ACADEMIC AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2018 Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship
2018 Woodrow Wilson Foundation Career Enhancement Fellowship for Junior Faculty, 6 Month
2018 Young Scholars in American Religion
2016 Junior Faculty Teaching Fellowship, Vanderbilt University
2014 Mellon Graduate Teaching Fellowship
2013 Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship
2012 W.E.B. DuBois Noomo Award for the Pursuit of Academic Excellence (Emory University)
2011 Race and Difference Initiative Travel Grant
2011 On Recent Discoveries By Emory Researchers (ORDER) Fellowship
2009 The Fund For Theological Education Doctoral Fellowship
2009 Emory University Graduate Diversity Fellowship
2001 Dean’s Scholarship, Spelman College

INVITED TALKS AND PANELS

“Do We Need God for Racial Justice?:’ The History of Protest, Religion, and Reform”
Veritas Forum, June 2020

“Policing the Academy” Roundtable
Policing the Academy Graduate Student Symposium, Florida State University, February 2020

“Beyond Tituba: Black Women, Slavery, and Witchcraft After Salem”
Space, Time, and Religion in Early America Conference, Princeton University, February 2020

“The Issue of Females:’ Abortion, Infanticide, and Ethics in Southern Slavery”
College of Charleston, November 2019

“Women, Slavery, and the Study of African-Atlantic Religion in the United States South”
Southern Historical Association Annual Meeting, Black Atlantic Religion Roundtable,
November 2019

“First and Last Rites: Childbirth, Women, and Religion in Slavery”
Yale University, April 2019

“From Female Captive to Negro Wench: Slavery in Religious and Gendered Perspective”
Middle Tennessee State University, April 2018

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Co-Organizer and Panelist, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2019
Theory and Method 2.0: Decolonizing the Field

Presenter, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2016
Paper: “Of Hags and Witches: The Limits and Possibilities of Magic in the Study of Enslaved Religiosity in the Lower South”

Presenter, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2016
Paper: “Rituals of Reproduction: Childbirth, Midwifery, and Initiation Among Enslaved Women in the Lower South”

Panelist, Southern Historical Association Annual Meeting, November 2016
Paper: “Enslaved Women’s Religious History: A Category for the Twenty-First Century”
Panel: “Southern Religious History in the Twenty-First Century”

Presenter, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2014
Paper: “Womb Ethics and Female ‘Common Sense’: Gendering ‘Slave Religion’ in the Colonial and Antebellum Lower South”

Presenter, Ford Fellows Annual Conference, September 2013
Paper: “Resignifying Sunday: Rethinking Gender, Space, and Time in the Religious Cultures Of Enslaved Peoples”

Presenter, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2010
Paper: “I Just Wanna Sex-tify!?: Flesh, Body, and Desire in the Discourse of Juanita Bynum”

TEACHING

Vanderbilt University

Introduction to Southern Religions and Culture
Slave Thought and Culture in the American South
Introduction to African-American Religious Traditions
Women and Religion
Race and Religion in America
Readings in the History and Theory of African-American Religion
Readings in Methods in Women’s Religious History

Morehouse College

Trajectories of African-American Religious History– Spring 2015

Perspectives on Religion: Moods, Methods, and Major Questions in Christianity, Native American Religions, Islam, and Africana Religions of the U.S. South – Fall 2014

Oxford College of Emory University

Perspectives on Religion: Moods, Methods, and Moments in Christianity, Islam, and Native American Religions – Fall 2012

Emory University

Religion and Sexuality, Co-Instructor – Fall 2013

History of Religions in America, Co-Instructor – Spring 2012

Layers of Human Experience: Molecules, Methods, and Metaphysics, Co-Instructor – Fall 2011, Spring 2012

PH.D., MASTER'S, AND UNDERGRADUATE COMMITTEES

Ph.D. Committee Member, Erika Nelson, Religion, 2016-Present

Ph.D. Committee Member, Chelsea Yarborough, Religion, 2017-Present

Ph.D. Committee Member, Abena Boakyewa-Ansah, History, 2018-Present

Honors Thesis Reader, Kaleigh Clemons, African-American and Diaspora Studies, 2019-2020

Master's Advisor, Devin Burns, M.A. Religion-Historical Studies, 2017-2019

Honors Thesis Advisor, Alexis Gordon, History, 2019

RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Writing and Composition Coach, Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program, Emory University (May 2011 – May 2015)

Graduate Research Assistant to the Faculty Council and University Senate, Emory University (February 2012 – August 2013)

SERVICE

PROFESSIONAL

Co-Chair, Afro-American Religious History Unit Steering Committee, The American Academy of Religion (2019 – Present)

Committee Member, Afro-American Religious History Unit Steering Committee, The American Academy of Religion (January 2016 - Present)

Advisory Board Member, *Sounding Spirit*, Emory Center for Digital Scholarship, Emory University (August 2020 – Present)

Reviewer: *Nineteenth Century American History*, *Psychology of Violence*, *Abolition: A Journal of Insurgent Politics*, *Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy*, *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*

DEPARTMENTAL AND COLLEGE

Chair, Religious Studies Department Fiftieth Anniversary Committee (2019-2020)

Overlook Seminar Coordinator, Religious Studies Department (Spring 2018)

Panelist, “Interviewing 101: What Nobody Tells You About the Academic Job Interview,” Margaret Cuninggam Women’s Center (2018)

Presenter, “Enslaved Women’s Religious History: Outlining a New Subject of Inquiry,” Faculty/Staff Connection Group, Robert Penn Warren Center (2018)

Judge, Vanderbilt Three Minute Thesis, Preliminary Round (2017)

Co-Organizer, Black Feminist Methods and Methodologies Conference (February 2017)

Presenter, Gender and Sexualities Seminar, Robert Penn Warren Center (2017)

Presenter, “Not American Enough: Slavery and Legacies of Exclusion in the American Metanarrative,” McGill Dialogue, McGill Residence Hall (2017)

OTHER

African-American Studies Collective (AASC) Charter Member and Secretary, Emory University (January 2012 – August 2014)

Finance Committee Chair, Alien Bodies: Race, Space, and Sex in the African Diaspora Conference (February 2013)

2012-2013 ORDER Fellowship Selection Committee, Emory University (March 2012)

Judge, Undergraduate Research Symposium, Emory University (April 2011)

Hebrew Bible Professorial Search Committee Member, Emory University (August 2006 – May 2007)

PUBLIC

Community Advisory Board Member, Nashville Public Television (2019-Present)

Public Lecture, “The Foundations and Origins of Black Baptists in America,” African-American Heritage Society of Maury County, Tennessee (October 2015)

Instructor, Heshima Rites of Passage Program for Young Women, Atlanta, Georgia (2008-2011)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Academy of Religion, 2009 – Present

Southern Historical Association, 2010 – Present

Southern Association for Women Historians, 2014 – Present

Feminist Studies in Religion Forum, 2016-Present