

Elissa Cutter

Department of Religious Studies & Theology
Georgian Court University
900 Lakewood Avenue
Lakewood, NJ 08701

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Theological Studies, Saint Louis University, 2016.

M.A. in Theology, Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology at the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA, 2009.

A.B. in French and Theology, Georgetown University, 2003.

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Georgian Court University, Religious Studies & Theology, Assistant Professor, 2019–present.

Loyola Marymount University, Theological Studies, Postdoctoral Faculty Fellow, 2016–19.

PUBLICATIONS

Edited Volumes

Forthcoming *The Public Scholarship of Women in Theology: Method and Practice in a Digital Space*, with Allison Murray. Under contract with Paulist Press.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Invited to Resubmit “Mother Angélique Arnauld’s Reflections on Reform: Creating Unity Out of Diversity at Port-Royal.”

2019 “Apology in the Form of Autohagiography: Angélique Arnauld’s Defense of Her Reform of Port-Royal.” *Catholic Historical Review* 105, no. 2, pp. 275–303.

2017 “Monastic Reform in Seventeenth-Century France: The Cistercian and Tridentine Influences on Angélique Arnauld’s Reform of the Convent of Port-Royal.” *Cistercian Studies Quarterly* 52, no. 4, pp. 425–51.

2016 “Eating and Drinking Condemnation: Jansenist and Puritan Spiritualities of Communion.” *Studies in Spirituality* 26, pp. 283–306.

2008 “Inclusivism in the Fiction of C.S. Lewis: The Case of Emeth.” *Logos* 11, no. 4, pp. 57–73.

Book Chapters

Forthcoming “*Théologienne, Théologien, Theologian?* Feminist Historical Theology from Angélique Arnauld to Mary Daly.” In *The Public Scholarship of Women in Theology: Method and Practice in a Digital Space*, edited by Elissa Cutter and Allison Murray. Under contract with Paulist Press.

Accepted Translation of “Letter of Mother Angélique Arnauld to Louis Macquet, 4 January 1635.” In *From Port-Royal to Pistoia: An Anthology of Jansenist Sources in Translation*, edited by Shaun Blanchard and Richard T. Yoder. Accepted by the Catholic University of America Press, Early Modern Sources series. Anticipated publication in 2024.

Book Reviews

- 2023 *Storied Places: Pilgrim Shrines, Nature, and History in Early Modern France*, by Virginia Reinburg. *Journal of Religion in Europe* 16, no. 1–2, pp. 110–1.
- 2023 *The Predestination of Humans and Angels: Augustinus, Tome III, Book IX*, by Cornelius Jansen, translated by Guido Stucco. *French History* 37, no. 1, pp. 87–88.
- 2020 *Sacrifice and Self-Interest in Seventeenth-Century France: Quietism, Jansenism, and Cartesianism*, by Thomas M. Lennon. *Seventeenth-Century News* 78, no. 3–4, pp. 154–7, <https://hdl.handle.net/1969.1/191402>
- 2020 *Jansenism and England: Moral Rigorism across the Confessions*, by Thomas Palmer. *Journal of Religion in Europe* 12, no. 3, pp. 340–2.
- 2019 *Getting Past Perfect: How to Find Joy and Grace in the Messiness of Motherhood*, by Kate Wicker. *Reviews in Religion and Theology* 26, no. 3, pp. 523–5.
- 2019 *The Concept of Woman: Volume III, The Search for Communion of Persons, 1500–2015*, by Prudence Allen, RSM. *Reviews in Religion and Theology* 26, no. 2, pp. 213–6.
- 2018 *Mothers of Faith: Motherhood in the Christian Tradition*, by Wilfred M. Sumani, SJ. *Horizons* 45, no. 2, pp. 502–4.
- 2018 *Reform Catholicism and the International Suppression of the Jesuits in Enlightenment Europe*, by Dale K. Van Kley. *Reading Religion* (12 November), <http://readingreligion.org/books/reform-catholicism-and-international-suppression-jesuits-enlightenment-europe>.
- 2018 *Catholic Social Thought: Encyclicals and Documents from Pope Leo XIII to Pope Francis*, third revised edition, edited by David J. O’Brien & Thomas A. Shannon. *Reviews in Religion and Theology* 25, no. 3, pp. 536–8.
- 2017 *A Saint in the Sun: Praising Saint Bernard in the France of Louis XIV*, by David N. Bell. *Reading Religion* (8 November), <http://readingreligion.org/books/saint-sun>.
- 2017 *Maria Maddalena de’ Pazzi: The Making of a Counter-Reformation Saint*, by Clare Copeland. *Journal of Religion in Europe* 10, pp. 359–60.
- 2017 *What Does It Mean to Be Catholic?*, by Jack Mulder, Jr. *Reviews in Religion and Theology* 24, no. 3, pp. 553–5.
- 2017 *Reading C.S. Lewis: A Commentary*, by Wesley A. Kort. *Reading Religion* (3 February), <http://readingreligion.org/books/reading-cs-lewis>.
- 2016 *Neo-Calvinism and the French Revolution*, edited by James Eglinton & George Harinck. *Reviews in Religion and Theology* 23, no. 4, pp. 480–3.
- 2016 *Mysticism in the French Tradition: Eruptions from France*, edited by Louis Nelstrop & Bradley B. Onishi. *Reviews in Religion and Theology* 23, no. 4, pp. 568–70.

Works in Progress

Annotated translation: *Angélique Arnauld: Writings of Reform*. Accepted by the Other Voice in Early Modern Europe series.

Selected Blog Posts

- 2023 “Some Guidance for Writing Conference Proposals (for AAR).” WIT: Women in Theology (14 February): <https://womenintheology.org/2023/02/14/some-guidance-for-writing-conference-proposals-for-aar/>
- 2023 “Teaching through Journaling.” Wabash Center Blog: Praxis: The Responsive & Expanding Classroom (30 January): <https://www.wabashcenter.wabash.edu/2023/01/teaching-through-journaling/>
- 2022 “Pope Francis and Mother Angélique: A Feminist Historical Theology Issue.” WIT: Women in Theology (30 December): <https://womenintheology.org/2022/12/30/pope-francis-and-mother-angelique-a-feminist-historical-theology-issue/>
- 2022 “Journaling as a Means of Research.” WIT: Women in Theology (6 December): <https://womenintheology.org/2022/12/06/journaling-as-a-means-of-research/>
- 2022 “Seeking Awe and Wonder.” Wabash Center Blog: Re/Kindling Creativity and Imagination (12 September): <https://www.wabashcenter.wabash.edu/2022/09/seeking-awe-and-wonder/>
- 2022 “No Church Mothers: Part III, Theology vs. Spirituality.” WIT: Women in Theology (10 May): <https://womenintheology.org/2022/05/10/no-church-mothers-part-iii-theology-vs-spirituality/>
- 2022 “Women’s Voices: A Review of Sue Monk Kidd’s *The Book of Longings*.” WIT: Women in Theology (3 January): <https://womenintheology.org/2022/01/03/womens-voices-a-review-of-sue-monk-kidds-the-book-of-longings/>
- 2021 “The ‘Big Bad’ Conversion Narrative.” WIT: Women in Theology (2 December): <https://womenintheology.org/2021/12/02/the-big-bad-conversion-narrative/>
- 2021 “Toward a Feminist Historical Theology: Part II, Feminist Biblical Interpretation.” WIT: Women in Theology (27 October): <https://womenintheology.org/2021/10/27/toward-a-feminist-historical-theology-part-ii-feminist-biblical-interpretation/>
- 2021 “Toward a Feminist Historical Theology: Part I, *Hamilton*.” WIT: Women in Theology (3 July): <https://womenintheology.org/2021/07/03/toward-a-feminist-historical-theology-part-i-hamilton/>
- 2021 “*Fratelli Tutti* and the Importance of the Histor(ical Theolog)ian.” WIT: Women in Theology (11 June): <https://womenintheology.org/2021/06/11/fratelli-tutti-and-the-importance-of-the-historical-theologian/>
- 2020 “A Working Mother’s Pandemic Spirituality.” WIT: Women in Theology (14 December): <https://womenintheology.org/2020/12/14/a-working-mothers-pandemic-spirituality/>
- 2019 “Catholic Theology and the Mental Load of Women.” WIT: Women in Theology (28 February): <https://womenintheology.org/2019/02/28/catholic-theology-and-the-mental-load-of-women/>

- 2018 “Modern-Day Jansenists... Online?” WIT: Women in Theology (18 May): <https://womenintheology.org/2018/05/18/modern-day-jansenists-online/>
- 2018 “Can We Bring History and Theology Back Together?” WIT: Women in Theology (25 January): <https://womenintheology.org/2018/01/25/can-we-bring-history-and-theology-back-together/>
- 2017 “No Church Mothers: Part II.” WIT: Women in Theology (10 February): <https://womenintheology.org/2017/02/10/no-church-mothers-part-ii/>
- 2016 “No Church Mothers? That Seems Doubtful.” WIT: Women in Theology (22 April): <https://womenintheology.org/2016/04/22/no-church-mothers-that-seems-doubtful/>
- 2016 “*Théologienne, Théologien, Theologian?* From Angélique Arnauld to Mary Daly.” WIT: Women in Theology (16 February): <https://womenintheology.org/2016/02/16/theologienne-theologien-theologian-from-angelique-arnauld-to-mary-daly/>
- 2014 “Modern-Day Jansenism?” WIT: Women in Theology (1 October): <https://womenintheology.org/2014/10/01/modern-day-jansenism/>
- 2014 “History, Theology, and the Task of the Historical Theologian.” WIT: Women in Theology (24 January): <https://womenintheology.org/2014/01/24/history-theology-and-the-historical-theologian/>

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2023 “Teaching Ethics Through Advocacy and Active Citizenship,” Summer Fellowship, Wabash Center, Lilly Endowment, Inc.
- 2022 Hybrid Teaching and Learning Workshop for Early Career Religion Faculty Teaching Undergraduates Honorarium, Wabash Center, Lilly Endowment, Inc.
- 2020 Racial Equity & Interfaith Cooperation Award, Interfaith Youth Core.
- 2018 Individual Research Grant, American Academy of Religion.
- 2015 Annual Meeting Presidential Graduate Scholarship, American Catholic Historical Association.
- 2015 Annual Meeting Travel Grant, American Academy of Religion.
- 2014 Graduate Teaching Assistantship, Saint Louis University.
- 2013 Brennan Summer Dissertation Fellowship, Saint Louis University.
- 2013 Graduate Student Research Grant, American Catholic Historical Association.
- 2012 Graduate Student Travel Award, Saint Louis University.
- 2012–13 Graduate Teaching Assistantship, Saint Louis University.
- 2012 Jesuit Language Scholarship, Saint Louis University.
- 2011–12 Graduate Research Assistantship, Saint Louis University.
- 2010–11 Graduate Research Assistantship, Saint Louis University.
- 2009–10 Graduate Research Assistantship, Saint Louis University.

FUNDED WORKSHOPS

- 2023 Teaching Interfaith Understanding Seminar, Council of Independent Colleges and Interfaith America.
- 2022 Hybrid Teaching and Learning Workshop for Early Career Religion Faculty Teaching Undergraduates, Wabash Center, Lilly Endowment, Inc.,
<https://www.wabashcenter.wabash.edu/programs/workshops/2022-early-career-religion-faculty-teaching-undergraduates/>

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2023 Nominated for Virginia Graham Award for Teaching Excellence, Georgian Court University.
- 2015 Graduate Student Association Service Award, Saint Louis University.
- 2015 Certificate in University Teaching Skills, Saint Louis University.
- 2015 First Place, Humanities Paper Presentation, Graduate Research Symposium, Saint Louis University.
- 2012 Second Place, Humanities Paper Presentation, Graduate Research Symposium, Saint Louis University.
- 2012 Graduate Student Conference Presentation Award, Winter Meeting, American Society of Church History.
- 2011 Third Place, Humanities Paper Presentation, Graduate Research Symposium, Saint Louis University.

INVITED TALKS

- 2023 “Narratives of Early Modern Catholic Reform: Spiritual and Theological Influences in the Writings of the Port-Royal Nuns,” The Early Modern Roots of Newman’s Religious World, Spring Symposium, National Institute for Newman Studies, Pittsburgh, PA (10–11 March).
- 2018 “Perspectives on Life after DSPT,” Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology at the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA (13 October).

CONFERENCES

Panels Organized

- 2022 “Gender and Religious Polemic: Researching Early Modern Catholic Women.” American Catholic Historical Association Spring Meeting (22 April).
- 2017 “Extra- and Intra-Catholic Polemics in Early Modern Europe.” American Catholic Historical Association Annual Meeting (7 January).

- 2016 “New Methodologies for Studying Early Modern Catholic Women: The Histories of French and Francophone Nuns.” American Catholic Historical Association Annual Meeting (9 January).
- 2015 “Resistance and Polemics out of Port-Royal: The Jansenist Responses to Persecution in Seventeenth-Century France.” American Catholic Historical Association Annual Meeting (3 January).
- 2013 “Early Modern Catholic Women: New Approaches to the Lives of the Nuns at Port-Royal.” American Catholic Historical Association Annual Meeting (5 January).
- 2012 “Author Meets Critics: Brad Gregory’s *The Unintended Reformation* (Harvard University Press, 2012).” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting (17 November).
- 2012 “Early Modern Protestant Appropriation of Catholic Thought and Practice.” American Society of Church History Winter Meeting (8 January).

Papers Presented

- 2023 “The ‘Great Difficulty’ of the Cloister: The *Journée du Guichet* and the Mythos of Reform in the *Mémoires* of Port-Royal.” Paper accepted at the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians (28 June–2 July).
- 2022 “‘Not to obey you, of course, because that’s anachronistic and misogynistic’: Authorial Intent in Interpreting *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting (21 November).
- 2022 “A Feminine Rhetoric of Persecution: The Strategic Historiography of the Nuns of Port-Royal.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting (19 November).
- 2022 “Mother Angélique Arnauld’s Reflections on Reform: Creating Unity Out of Diversity at Port-Royal.” Conference on the History of Women Religious (26 June) [delivered in absentia].
- 2022 “The Power of Naming: Gender and Heresy in Polemics Against the Port-Royal Nuns.” American Catholic Historical Association Spring Meeting (22 April).
- 2019 “History and Polemics in the Writings of Mother Angélique Arnauld.” Society for French Historical Studies Annual Meeting (6 April).
- 2018 “Academic Theology and the Jansenist Controversy in France: Voices of Men and Women in the History of the Discipline of Theology.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting (20 November).
- 2018 “God Made for Us This Grace: Mother Angélique and the Theology of Grace at Work in the (Jansenist) Convent of Port-Royal.” Catholic Theological Society of America Convention (9 June).
- 2017 “Women, Reform, and the Council of Trent: Angélique Arnauld’s Reform of the Convent of Port-Royal.” Joint Spring Meeting of the American Society of Church History and the American Catholic Historical Association (7 April).
- 2017 “Women as *Moineses* and *Théologiennes*: Gendered Polemics Against the Port-Royal Nuns.” American Catholic Historical Association Annual Meeting (7 January).

- 2016 “Angélique Arnauld, Reformer, *Moinesse*, and *Théologienne*: Jansenism and Counter-Reformation Catholicism at the Convent of Port-Royal.” Conference on the History of Women Religious (28 June).
- 2015 “Does Women’s Agency Need to Be Subversive? The Example of Angélique Arnauld and Early Modern Convent Reform.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting (21 November).
- 2015 “The Early Modern Abbess as *Théologienne*: The Theological Authority of Mother Angélique Arnauld.” Saint Louis University Graduate Research Symposium (24 April).
- 2015 “Apology in the Form of Autohagiography: Angélique Arnauld’s Defense of Her Reform of Port-Royal.” American Catholic Historical Association Annual Meeting (3 January).
- 2013 “‘My Dear Mother, Pray for My Conversion’: Spiritual Direction and Cooperation between Angélique Arnauld and Jeanne de Chantal.” Conference on the History of Women Religious (25 June).
- 2013 “Angélique Arnauld, Teacher and Sacramental *Théologienne*.” American Catholic Historical Association Annual Meeting (5 January).
- 2012 Panelist in “Author Meets Critics: Brad Gregory’s *The Unintended Reformation* (Harvard University Press, 2012).” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting (17 November).
- 2012 “The Feminist Paradox and the Reform of Port-Royal: Obedience and Authority in the Writing of Mère Angélique Arnauld.” Saint Louis University Graduate Research Symposium (27 April).
- 2012 “Eating and Drinking Condemnation: Antoine Arnauld and Jonathan Edwards on the Lord’s Supper.” American Society of Church History Winter Meeting (8 January).
- 2011 “A Historical Theologian Among Historians: A Case Study of the Revolt of the Vendée.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting (19 November).
- 2011 “Disciplinary Space and the Historical Theologian: History, Theology and the War of the Vendée.” Saint Louis University Graduate Research Symposium (15 April).
- 2009 “Angélique’s Reform: Gender and Power in the Example of Port-Royal.” Western Commission for the Study of Religion (23 March).
- 2008 “A Model Citizen-Priest: Henri Grégoire and the Civil Constitution of the Clergy.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting (2 November).
- 2008 “Jansenism: Marginal Movement or Gallican Mainstream?” Western Commission for the Study of Religion (30 March).
- 2008 “Jansenism and Gallicanism in Antoine Arnauld’s *Théologie morale des jésuites*.” Medieval and Renaissance Studies Graduate Student Conference, University of California, Sacramento (23 February).
- 2007 “The Early Correspondence between Augustine and Jerome: A New Perspective.” Western Commission for the Study of Religion (26 March).
- 2006 “Emeth and the Possibility for Salvation in Non-Christian Religions.” Through the Wardrobe: A Narnia Conference (5 May).

Other Participation

- 2018 Chair for “Identity and Conversion in European Religions.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting (19 November).
- 2017 Chair for “Under the Surface of Current Debates: Islam Negotiating with European Culture.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting (18 November).
- 2016 Chair for “New Methodologies for Studying Early Modern Catholic Women: The Histories of French and Francophone Nuns.” American Catholic Historical Association Annual Meeting (9 January).
- 2014 Chair for “Distinct Influences, Diverse Trajectories: Early Modern Historical Approaches to Church, Scripture, and Law.” Second Annual Symposium on Medieval and Renaissance Studies (17 June).

CAMPUS TALKS

- 2023 “The Recovery of Women’s Voices in Catholic Tradition: A Conversation,” with Mary Kate Holman. Georgian Court University, Critical Concerns Week (22 March).
- 2018 Introduction to “Listening to the Wounded: The Sex Abuse Crisis in the Catholic Church.” Loyola Marymount University, Department of Theological Studies (23 October).
- 2016 “Women as *Moineses* and *Théologiennes*: Gendered Polemics Against the Port-Royal Nuns.” Loyola Marymount University, Department of Theological Studies Colloquium (8 December).
- 2012 “The Revolt of the Vendée, Historical Theology, and Interdisciplinarity.” Saint Louis University, Humanities Forum (23 March).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Georgian Court University

African American Religious Experience (2 sections, 2021–22), new online course proposed and developed with support from the Racial Equity & Interfaith Cooperation Award, Interfaith Youth Core.

Christian Tradition (13 sections, 2019–23).

Christian Tradition, Honors (2 sections, 2020, 2022), writing intensive.

Discovering the Self in the Universe (2 sections 2022–23), general education course, writing intensive.

Ethics: Business, History, and Religion in Paris (2024), proposed study abroad course with Michael Pawlish to run during spring break.

Introduction to Theological Study [graduate] / Sources and Methods in Theology (3 sections, 2021–22), hybrid course, cross-listed graduate and undergraduate courses.

Seminar in Religious Thought (1 section, 2023)

Social Justice Ethics (4 sections, 2020–23), service-learning.

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Theological Ethics (9 sections, 2019–23), online course.

Loyola Marymount University

Catholic Theology and Social Justice (3 sections, 2018–19), new course proposed as part of Core Curriculum, cross-listed with Catholic Studies, flagged as Engaged Learning (service-learning).

Exploring the Catholic Theological Tradition (12 sections, 2016–19), cross-listed with Catholic Studies.

God and the Human Experience (3 sections, 2016–17).

Saint Louis University

The Church: Yesterday and Today (1 section, 2016).

History of Christianity (2 sections, 2015–16).

Theological Foundations (7 sections, 2012–13, 2015).

Teaching Assistant for Theological Foundations (Spring 2014).

SERVICE

Disciplinary Service

Presenter, “Teaching / Writing Spark: Journaling,” Teaching and Learning Workshop for Early Career Religion Faculty Teaching Undergraduates, Wabash Center, 2022.

Member, Steering Committee, Women’s Consultation on Constructive Theology, Catholic Theological Society of America, 2021–present.

Reviewer, Springer Publishing, manuscript of *An Antiphilosophy of Christianity*, 2020.

Reviewer, *Journal of Religion in Europe*, 2020.

Presenter, “The Art of Writing AAR Conference Proposals,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, 2018, 2019.

Editor, WIT: Women in Theology blog, <http://womenintheology.org/>, 2018–present; Regular Contributor, 2013–present.

Member, Travel Grants Jury, American Academy of Religion, 2018–2021.

Reviewer, *Catholic Historical Review*, 2017, 2021.

Presenter, Graduate Student Roundtable, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, 2015, 2016.

Member, Steering Committee, Religion in Europe Unit, American Academy of Religion, 2012–2021; Co-Chair, 2015–2021.

University Service

Member, Search Committee for Campus Minister for Service and Social Justice, Georgian Court University, 2023.

Member, General Education Curriculum Committee, Faculty Assembly, Georgian Court University, 2021–present; Chair, 2022–present.

Faculty representative, Mission Advisory Committee, Georgian Court University, 2021–present.

Faculty representative, Mission & Identity Committee, Board of Trustees, Georgian Court University, 2021–present.

“Personal Perspective: A Passion for Catholic Social Teaching,” video created for Campus Ministry retreat, “Leadership for Social Transformation,” Georgian Court University, 2020.

Faculty representative, Advancement and Public Affairs Committee, Board of Trustees, Georgian Court University, 2020–2021.

Departmental Service

Reviewer, Say Something Theological Graduate Conference, Department of Theological Studies, Loyola Marymount University, 2019.

Member, Task Force for Faculty Response to Abuse Crisis, Department of Theological Studies, Loyola Marymount University, 2018–19.

Presenter, Postdoctoral Fellows Session on Service-Learning, Loyola Marymount University, 2017.

Coordinator, Women’s Group in Theology and Philosophy, Saint Louis University, 2013–14.

Coordinator, Critical Theory Reading Group, Department of Theological Studies, Saint Louis University, 2013–14.

Coordinator, Graduate Student French Study Group, Saint Louis University, 2012–15.

Graduate Student Representative, Comparative Theology and Systematic Theology Search Committees, Department of Theological Studies, Saint Louis University, 2012.

Presenter, Theological Studies Graduate Student Brown-Bag Lunch Program, Saint Louis University, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2016.

Chairperson, Graduate Student Action Committee, Department of Theological Studies, Saint Louis University, 2010–13.

Coordinator, PhD Programs Workshop, Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology at the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA, 2007, 2008.

Coordinator, “Dumb Ox” Theology Lecture Series, Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology at the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA, 2006–8.

President, Student Association, Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology at the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA, 2006–7.

LANGUAGES

French, highly proficient in reading, writing, and speaking.

Elissa Cutter

Latin, basic reading ability.

Italian, basic reading ability.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Academy of Religion

American Catholic Historical Association

Catholic Theological Society of America

Société des Amis de Port-Royal