

## **JESSICA A. BOON**

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### **EDUCATION**

**University of Pennsylvania**, Ph.D., Religious Studies, August 2004.

**Yale University**, B.A., Humanities, 1998, *magna cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa.

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Associate Professor of Religious Studies, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, July 2016- .  
Adjunct Associate Professor of History, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, 2018- .

Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, July 2011- 2016.

Assistant Professor of Church History, Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University,  
January 2007- June 2011.

Mellon Lecturing Fellow, University Writing Program, Duke University, postdoctoral teaching position,  
Fall 2006.

Mellon Writing in the Disciplines Fellow, Writing and Religion, co-appointed in University Writing  
Program and Dept of Religion, Duke University, postdoctoral teaching position, 2004-2006.

Instructor/Teaching Assistant, University of Pennsylvania, 2000-2003.

### **HONORS**

2019 Best Article Prize for 2017-18, Society of Medieval Feminist Scholarship (“At the Limits of  
(Trans)Gender”)

Schwab Academic Excellence Award for teaching and scholarship, Institute of Arts and Humanities,  
UNC, 2018.

Visiting Researcher, Medieval Studies Unit, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC),  
Madrid, 2016.

2015 Charles A. Ryskamp Research Fellowship, ACLS-supported 2-semester leave in 2016.

UNC Junior Faculty Development Grant, 2013.

2008 Charles Julian Bishko Memorial Prize, Association for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies,  
best article in medieval Iberian history by a North American scholar (“The Agony of the Virgin”).

Javits Fellowship, 4-year federal fellowship, used 1998-2000, 2001-2003.

William Penn Fellowship, 4-year university fellowship, used 2000-2001, 2003-2004.

## BOOKS AND BOOK CHAPTERS

### **Book**

*The Mystical Science of the Soul: Medieval Cognition in Bernardino de Laredo's Recollection Method.* Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2012.

### **Edited Books**

*The End of the World in Medieval Thought and Spirituality*, ed. Eric Knibbs, Jessica A. Boon, and Erica Gelser. New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2019.

*Mother Juana de la Cruz, 1481–1534: Visionary Sermons.* Ed. Jessica A. Boon and Ronald E. Surtz. Introductory material and notes by Jessica A. Boon. Trans. Ronald E. Surtz and Nora Weinerth. *The Other Voice in Early Modern Europe: The Toronto Series.* Toronto: Iter Academic Press; Tempe: Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, 2016.

Honorable Mention for best scholarly edition in translation in 2016, Society for the Study of Early Modern Women (SSEMW)

### **Book Chapters**

“A Counter-Reformation Parable: The *Hijo Pródigo* in Baroque Theology, Theater, and Devotions.” In *Murillo: The Prodigal Son*. Dallas, TX. *Accepted*, 22 pp.

“Wounded by Love: The Agony of God’s Touch in Hadewijch and Ruusbroec.” *Companion to Hadewijch*, ed. Patricia Dailey and Veerle Fraeters. Leiden: Brill Press. *Accepted*, 27 pp.

“The Incarnate Body and Blood in Christianity.” In *Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Religious Materiality*, ed. Vasudha Narayanan, 46-60. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell Press. *Forthcoming*.

(with Eric Knibbs). “Introduction.” In *The End of the World in Medieval Thought and Spirituality*, ed. Eric Knibbs, Jessica A. Boon, and Erica Gelser, 1-14. New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2019.

“The Marian Apocalyptic of a Visionary Preacher: The *Conorte* of Juana de la Cruz, 1481-1534.” In *The End of the World in Medieval Thought and Spirituality*, ed. Eric Knibbs, Jessica A. Boon, and Erica Gelser, 41-67. New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2019.

“Gender and Materiality: Caroline Walker Bynum.” *Cultural Approaches to Studying Religion: An Introduction to Theories and Methods*, ed. Sarah J. Bloesch and Meredith Minister, 111-26. London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2018.

“A Full-Figured Paradox: Mary Magdalene as Prostitute, Apostle, Virgin, Ascetic, and Contemplative.” In *Jusepe de Ribera's Mary Magdalene in a New Context, The Prado at the Meadows*, vol. 2, Dallas, TX, and Madrid, 2011, 91–101 (English), 122–125 (Spanish translation).

“Mother Juana de la Cruz: Marian Visions and Female Preaching.” In *A New Companion to Hispanic Mysticism*, ed. Hilaire Kallendorf, 127-48. Leiden: Brill Press, 2010.

## REFEREED ARTICLES

“The Body-and-Soul in Pain: Medico-Theological Debates in Late Medieval Castilian Passion Treatises.” *Viator* 50 (1). *Forthcoming*, 40pp.

“At the Limits of (Trans)Gender: Jesus, Mary, and the Angels in the Visionary Sermons of Juana de la Cruz, 1481-1534.” *Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies* 48.2 (2018): 261-300.

“Mother Juana de la Cruz.” *Oxford Bibliographies in Renaissance and Reformation*. Ed. Margaret King. New York: Oxford University Press, originally published June 30 2014, revision Oct 25, 2017. <http://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/view/document/obo-9780195399301/obo-9780195399301-0197.xml>.

“Violence and the ‘Virtual Jew’ in Castilian Passion Narratives, 1490s-1510s.” *Journal of Medieval Iberian Studies* 8.1 (2016): 1-20; published online at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/17546559.2015.1077987>.

“The Glory of the Virgin: The Mariology of the Incarnation in Early Modern Castilian Mystical Sermons.” *La corónica* 41.1 (2012): 35-60.

“Christ at Heavenly Play: Christology Through Mary’s Eyes in the Sermons of Juana de la Cruz (1481-1534).” *Archiv für Reformationgeschichte (Archive of Reformation History)* 102 (2011): 243-66.

“Medical Bodies, Mystical Bodies: Medieval Physiological Theory in the Recollection Mysticism of Bernardino de Laredo.” *Viator* 39.2 (2008): 245-68.

“The Agony of the Virgin: The Swoons and Crucifixion of Mary in Sixteenth Century Castilian Passion Treatises.” *Sixteenth Century Journal* 38.1 (2007): 3-26.

“A Mystic in the Age of the Inquisition: Bernardino de Laredo's *Converso* Environment and Christological Spirituality.” *Medieval Encounters: Jews, Christians and Muslims in Confluence and Dialogue* 12.2 (2006): 133-52.

“Trinitarian Love Mysticism: Hadewijch, Ruusbroec, and the Gendered Experience of the Divine.” *Church History* 72 (2003): 484-503.

### **SELECTED REFEREED UNPUBLISHED ORAL PRESENTATIONS**

“*Dolor, Angustia, and Saña*: Charting the Embodied History of Emotions in Castilian Passion Treatises post-1492.” 55<sup>th</sup> International Medieval Congress, Kalamazoo, MI, May 7-10, 2020.

“Flying Crosses and Stewed Christs: The Materiality of Suffering in Spanish Christian Passion Texts, 1480-1540.” Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, St. Louis, October 17-20, 2019.

“Transactional Economy in the Visionary Sermons of Juana de la Cruz (1481-1534).” Association of Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies, Barcelona, July 10-13, 2019.

“Christocentric Physiology: Medical Knowledge in Archbishop Prejano’s 1493 *Lucero de la vida cristiana*.” Medieval Academy of America, March 7-9, 2019.

Panelist, “Re-Thinking the Teaching of Theories and Methods: A Discussion of *Cultural Approaches to the Study of Religion* (Bloomsbury, 2018) and *The Bloomsbury Reader for Cultural Approaches to the Study of Religion* (2018).” Panel sponsored by the Feminist Theory and Religious Reflection Unit. American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Denver, November 17-20, 2018.

“The *Converso* Debates post-1492: [Pure] Blood in Castilian Passion Treatises.” 52<sup>nd</sup> International Medieval Congress, Kalamazoo, MI, May 10-13, 2018.

“Responsive Imitation: Mary’s Suffering in Renaissance Castile.” 51<sup>st</sup> International Medieval Congress, Kalamazoo, MI, May 11-14, 2017.

“Envisioning Angels: Juana de la Cruz, Gender Ambiguity, and Female Mystical Authority.” 50<sup>th</sup> International Medieval Congress, Kalamazoo, MI, May 14-17, 2015.

“Marian Apocalyptic: The *Conorte* of Juana de la Cruz, 1481-1534.” Association of Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies, Baltimore, MD, March 19-22, 2015.

“(Divine) Love Hurts: Erotic Pain as Mystical Discourse in Hadewijch of Antwerp.” Panel sponsored by Theology and Religious Reflection Group, American Academy of Religion annual meeting, San Diego, November 22-25, 2014.

“Imagining the Passion in Isabelline Spain: The Passion of Two.” 49<sup>th</sup> International Medieval Congress, Kalamazoo, MI, May 8-11, 2014.

“Picturing the Passion in Post-Reconquest Spain: Bleeding Men and Divinized Women.” Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico, October 24-7, 2013.

“Intersex Theology? Juana de la Cruz (1481-1534), Transgender Miracles, and Marian Authority.” American Academy of Religion annual meeting, San Francisco, November 19-22, 2011.

“*Sin Rastro*: How to Write Franciscan Religious Biography Without Archives.” Association for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies, Lisbon, Portugal, June 30-July 2, 2011.

### SELECTED INVITED TALKS

Workshop leader for pre-circulated paper. “A Bigender Christ in a Bleeding Body: The Visionary Sermons of Juana de la Cruz (1481-1534).” Medieval Lexicon Project, Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality, University of Chicago, May 6, 2020.

Invited public talk. “Gender, Violence, and the History of Emotions: Spanish Passion Spirituality post-1492.” Medieval Lexicon Project, Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality, University of Chicago, May 5, 2020.

Workshop participant. “A Bigender Christ in a Bleeding Body: Trans Theory, Disability Theory, and the Visionary Sermons of Juana de la Cruz (1481-1534).” “Love in the Middle Ages: New Theoretical Approaches,” Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard University, March 8, 2020.

Workshop leader. “Master Class on Early Modern Mysticism: Juana de la Cruz.” At *Exceptional Selves Lab*, University of Tel Aviv, Israel, December 17, 2019.

Roundtable participant. “The Enchantment of Make-Believe in Premodern Vernacular Theology.” Faculty Bookwatch event on David Morgan’s *Images at Work*, Duke University, January 29, 2019.

Invited public talk. “A Pain-Grief Continuum: Jesus, Mary, and the Jews in Castilian Passion Spirituality c. 1500.” Medieval-Renaissance forum, University of Arkansas-Fayetteville, April 5, 2018.

Invited talk. “Blood That Matters: Medicine and Violence in Medieval Christology.” Yale Divinity School, February 26, 2018.

Invited talk. “Violent Grief and the Grief of Violence: Passion Spirituality in Late Medieval Spain.” Department of Religious Studies, Yale University, November 2, 2017.

Invited paper. “Physiology in Castilian Passion Spirituality and Mysticism,” workshop on *Mysticism as Palliative Healing: Practices and Teachings of Early Modern Woman Mystics in the Transatlantic World*. TORCH, Oxford University, January 27, 2017.

Invited talk. “The (Hyper)Body of Christ: Physiology and Materiality in Castilian Passion Spirituality, 1480-1540.” Seminar on Early Modern History, CSIC, Madrid. June 21, 2016.

Invited talk. “At the Limits of Gender: Visionary Sermons in Renaissance Spain.” Department of Spanish and Portuguese, Georgetown University, March 19, 2015.

Invited talk. “Transactional Economy in Spanish Mysticism.” Symposium on *Materiality and Embodiment in Sacred Economies of Exchange*. Religion Dept., Duke University, January 29, 2015.

Invited paper. “The ‘Virtual Jew’ in Post-Expulsion Spain: An Abjected Other in Passion Spirituality.” UNC Symposium, *Early Modern Jews and the Early Modern World: A History of Mutual Impact*. March 27, 2014.

Invited talk. “Cognitive Studies and Spanish Mysticism,” Claremont McKenna College, Dept. of Religious Studies, Claremont, CA, January 26, 2011.

Invited talk (in Spanish). “La Pasión de la madre y del hijo: El dolor de Cristo y María en algunos textos pasionales del siglo XVI.” Seminario de Historia Cultural (monthly faculty seminar on early modern culture), Universidad Autónoma, Madrid, November 23, 2010.

Invited paper. “Towards a New Definition of *Recogimiento*.” Congreso sobre “Alumbrados y disidencia religiosa en el mundo ibérico,” Centro de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales (CSIC), Madrid, June 24-5, 2010.

Invited talk. “Bloody Mary: Re-Envisioning the Virgin in Medieval Spanish Piety.” Oberlin College, Religious Studies department, November 12, 2008.

### **BOOKS, ARTICLES, AND SPECIAL ISSUES IN PROGRESS**

Invited editor, special issue on *Mysticism and Spirituality in Medieval Spain*, in journal *Religions*, due 2020.

*Spanish Passion: Jesus, Mary, and the Jews in the Castilian Religious Imagination, 1480-1540*. Second book. Advance contract with Palgrave MacMillan, “New Middle Ages” series. *In progress*.

### **COURSES TAUGHT – UNC**

RELI 161 Introduction to the History of Christian Traditions  
RELI 165 Introduction to Mysticism  
RELI 266 Medieval and Renaissance Christian Cultures  
RELI 362/WMST 362 Mary in the Christian Tradition  
RELI 368/WMST 368 Race, Sexuality, and Disability in the History of Western Christianity  
RELI 454/HIST 454 The Reformation

RELI 665/WMST 664 Body and Suffering in Christian Mysticism  
RELI 668 Religion and the Spanish Inquisition: Abrahamic Religions, Indigenous Traditions, and Empire  
RELI 700 Theories and Methods in the Study of Religion  
RELI 821 Religion and Culture Seminar: Body, Materiality, History  
RELI 890-008 Independent Study: Spanish Mysticism

### SELECTED GRANTS

Williamson Grant, UNC Sexuality Studies, 2017. Supported course development of RELI 368 “Race, Sexuality, and Disability in the History of Western Christianity.”

Donald Gilman Research Support Fund through MEMS, UNC, 2015. Supported research/travel to Spain and Portugal.

Jewish Studies Research and Travel Grant, UNC, 2015. Supported research/travel within Spain.

University Research Council, UNC, publication grant, 2015. Supported subvention and index for co-edited volume, *Mother Juana de la Cruz, 1481–1534: Visionary Sermons*.

ACLS Ryskamp summer salary grant, 2015.

University Research Council, UNC, research grant, 2014. Supported summer research/travel.

UNC Junior Faculty Development Award, 2013. Supported 2nd book project, travel and summer salary.

MEMS Research Travel Grant, 2013. Supported 2nd book project, travel and housing.

University Research Council grant, UNC. Supported research trip to Spain during Holy Week, 2013.

MEMS 2012 Conference Travel Grant for workshop in Antwerp (July 2012) of chapters for *Companion to Hadewijch*, Brill Press.

McLester Fund, Religious Studies, UNC, 2012. Supported indexer for book publication.

MEMS 2011 Seminar Development Award for “Spanish Religions: Peninsular and Colonial Encounters.”

Book subvention grant, Program for Cultural Cooperation Between Spain’s Ministry of Culture and United States’ Universities, for *The Mystical Science of the Soul*, 2011.

### PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

*Medieval Feminist Forum: A Journal of Gender and Sexuality* (blind peer-reviewed journal)

General Editor, 2019-.

Associate Editor, 2014-19.

Primary associate editor for special issue, *Medieval Trans Feminism*, spring 2019.

### Committee and Liaison Work

*Academic—National*

Society of Medieval Feminist Scholarship (SMFS)

Advisory Board, elected position, 2011-13, extended to 2014.

Review committee, Best Graduate Essay Prize, 2012-14.

Chair of elections committee, 2011-12, 2013-14.

Review committee, Best Article Prize, 2010-11.

Association for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies (ASPHS)

Review committee, Best First Book prize, 2009-10.

Coordinator for all sessions presented by the Association of Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies at the International Medieval Congress, Kalamazoo, MI, 2009-present.

International Congress on Medieval Studies Working Group, 2018-19

Convened to review procedures for vetting congress session proposals with fairness and equity

*Academic—UNC*

Faculty Council representative (Humanities, tenured), elected 2018-2021.

Director of the Minor in the Study of Christianity and Culture, fall 2018, 2019-20.

Director of Undergraduate Studies, 2017-18.

Chair, Undergraduate Studies Committee, 2017-18.

Member, Graduate Studies Committee, Religious Studies, 2019-

Member, Salary Committee, elected 2017-20.

Member, Search Committee, position in Islamic spirituality, 2019-20.

Member, SWOT Committee, 2017.

Member, Undergraduate Studies Committee, Religious Studies, 2011-12, fall 2012, 2013-14, fall 2015, fall 2016-spring 2017.

Member, Development and Outreach Committee, 2013-2015, fall 2016-spring 2017.

Department liaison to the Honor Committee, 2012-2015, spring 2016-.

Sole member, library committee, fall 2012.

Member, Search Committee, position in Religion in the Americas, Religious Studies, 2011-12.