

JUSTINE M. BAKKER
Assistant Professor Comparative Religious Studies

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WORK EXPERIENCE

Sept 2021-present	Assistant Professor Dept. of Comparative Religious Studies	Radboud University
Oct 2021-Sept 2024	Researcher (funded by FWO junior postdoc fellowship) Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies	KU Leuven
Jan – Sept. 2021	Lecturer Dept. of Textual, Historical and Systematic Studies of Judaism and Christianity	Radboud University
Dec 2020 – Sept. 2021	Associated Researcher Dept. of Ethics and Political Philosophy	Radboud University
Jan – April 2021	Postdoctoral Researcher Harvard Divinity School Postponed, due to COVID-19	Harvard University
June – Dec 2020	Postdoctoral Researcher Dept. of Ethics and Political Philosophy	Radboud University

EDUCATION

PH. D. RICE UNIVERSITY; HOUSTON, TX (USA)

Religion, May 2020

Cultural and Critical Thinking (3CT) Certificate (2017)

M.A. RICE UNIVERSITY; HOUSTON, TX (USA)

Religion, 2017

R. M.A. UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM; AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS.

Religious Studies (*cum laude*), 2013

B.A. UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM; AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS.

Religious Studies (*cum laude*), 2011

B.A. UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM; AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS.

European Studies (*cum laude*), 2010

FELLOWSHIPS

2022-2024	Humboldt Postdoc Fellowship (<i>declined</i>), 24 months To work with Prof.dr. Schirin Amir-Moazami, Freie Universiteit Berlin
2021-2023	Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship (<i>declined</i>), 24 months

2019-2020 To work with Dr. Alexandra Grieser, Trinity College Dublin
Charlotte Newcombe Dissertation Fellowship
(External: Institute for Citizens and Scholars, formerly Woodrow Wilson
Foundation)

RELEVANT AWARDS AND FUNDING

2018 HGSA Conference Funding
2018 Dean's Conference, Research and Professional Development Fund
2018 FWIS Course Enhancement Funding
2018 FWIS Teaching Stipend
2018 Finalist Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) Outstanding Graduate
Instructor of Record Award
2017 Humanities Research Center Travel Funding (x2)
2017 Cultural and Critical Thinking (3CT) Travel Funding
2016-2017 Andrew W. Mellon Seminar
Environment, Culture, Limits: Thinking Through the Long Anthropocene in
the United States

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Fall 2021 *Co-Instructor (co-ordinator Martijn de Koning)*, "Research Design",
Radboud University
Fall 2021 *Instructor*, "Project: Conspiracy Theories", Radboud University
Spring 2021 *Instructor*, "Bachelorwerkstuk Religiestudies" ("Bachelor thesis Religious
Studies"), Radboud University
Fall 2020 *Co-Instructor (with Anya Topolski)*, "Why is My Curriculum So White?
Readings in Black Philosophy", Radboud University
Fall 2018 *Instructor*, "Religion and Science Fiction", Rice University
Fall 2018 *Teaching Assistant (instructor Anthony Pinn)*, "Religion and Hip Hop", Rice
University
Spring 2017 *Instructor*, "Liberation Theologies", Rice University
Fall 2016 *Teaching Assistant (instructor Jeff Kripal)*, "Introduction to the Study of
Religion", Rice University

PUBLICATIONS

Co-Authored Books

CERCL Writing Collective, *Embodiment and Black Religion: Rethinking the Body in African
American Religious Experience*, London: Equinox Publishing (2017).

Books

In preparation: *Demonic Ocean: Parareligion in the African Diaspora*

Edited Volumes

In preparation: *Words Made Flesh: Sylvia Wynter and Religion* (co-edited with David Kline;
under contract with Fordham University Press)

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

“Hidden Presence: Race and/in the History, Construct and Study of Western Esotericism”, *Religion* 50:4 (2020), 479-503.

Book Chapters

In preparation: “Productive Tension: Religion in the Writings of Sylvia Wynter” for *Words Made Flesh: Sylvia Wynter and Religion* (co-edited by Justine Bakker and David Kline)

“Race and (the Study of) Esotericism” in: Egil Asprem and Julian Strube (eds.), *New Approaches to the Study of Esotericism*, Leiden: Brill (2020), 147-167.

“Esotericism, that’s for white folks, right?” in: Wouter Hanegraaff, Peter Forshaw and Marco Pasi (eds.), *Hermes Explains: Thirty Questions about Western Esotericism. Celebrating the 20-Year Anniversary of the Centre for History of Hermetic Philosophy and Related Currents at the University of Amsterdam*. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press (2019), 22-28.

“On the Knowledge of Self and Others: Secrecy, Concealment and Revelation in Elijah Muhammad’s Nation of Islam” in: Stephen C. Finley, Margarita S. Guillory and Hugh R. Page, Jr. (eds.), *Esotericism, Gnosticism and Mysticism in African American Religious Experience*. Leiden: Brill (2015), 138-151.

Entries in Reference Works

“Farrakhan, Louis”, “Muhammad, Tynnetta”, “Nation of Gods and Earths” and “Nation of Islam”, in: Egil Asprem (ed.), *Dictionary of Contemporary Esotericism*. Leiden: Brill (forthcoming).

“Farrakhan, Louis”, in: Richard C. Martin (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Islam and the Muslim World, 2nd edition*. Farmington Hills: Gale, Cengage Learning (2016), 366.

Book Notes & Reviews

In preparation: Michael Muhammad Knight, *Metaphysical Africa: Truth and Blackness in the Ansaru Allah Community* (Penn State University Press, 2020), for: *Reading Religion*

In preparation: An Yountae and Eleanor Craig (eds.), *Beyond Man: Race, Coloniality, and the Philosophy of Religion* (Duke University Press, 2021), for: *Religion*

Submitted: Jacob Dorman, *The Princess and the Prophet: The Secret History of Magic, Race, and Moorish Muslims in America* (Beacon Press, 2020), for: *Magic, Ritual and Witchcraft*

Joseph Winters, *Hope Draped in Black: Race, Melancholy and the Agony of Progress* (Duke University Press, 2016), for: *Religious Studies Review* 45:2 (2019), 225.

Judith Weisenfeld, *New World A-Coming: Black Religion and Racial Identity During the Great Migration* (New York University Press, 2016), for: *Religious Studies Review* 45:2 (2019), 224-5.

Whitney Bauman, *Religion and Ecology: Developing a Planetary Ethic* (Columbia University Press, 2014), for: *Religious Studies Review* 45:1 (2019), 51.

Paul Youngquist, *A Pure Solar World: Sun Ra and the Birth of Afrofuturism* (University of Texas Press, 2016), for: *Correspondences* 5 (2017), 121-6.

Carol Wayne White, *Black Lives and Sacred Humanity: Toward an African American Religious Naturalism* (Fordham University Press, 2016), for: *Religious Studies Review* 43:2 (2017).

Mayra Rivera, *Poetics of the Flesh* (Duke University Press, 2015), for: *Religious Studies Review* 43:2 (2017).

Angel Millar, *The Crescent and the Compass: Islam, Freemasonry, Esotericism, and Revolution in the Modern Age* (Numen, 2014), for: *Correspondences* 3 (2015), 156-9.

Digital Media

“Blue Religion.” For *Counterpoint: Navigating Knowledge*. November 17, 2020. <https://www.counterpointknowledge.org/blue-religion/>

“Covid-19 and Environmental Racism in Louisiana’s ‘Cancer Alley’.” For *Counterpoint: Navigating Knowledge*. May 13, 2020. <https://www.counterpointknowledge.org/covid-19-and-environmental-racism-in-louisianas-cancer-alley/>

“Offshore: Descending into the Blue Humanities.” For *Counterpoint: Navigating Knowledge*. November 6, 2019. <https://www.counterpointknowledge.org/offshore-descending-into-the-blue-humanities/>

“Blended/ing Religion.” Response to interview with Dr. Margarita Simon Guillory. *Religious Studies Project (RSP)*. January 31, 2018. Accessible through: <http://www.religiousstudiesproject.com/2018/02/01/blendeding-religion/>.

Publications in Non-peer Reviewed Journals

“Onder de radar. Een onderzoek naar de invloed van het protestantisme op de Nederlandse en Deense verzorgingsstaat”, *Skript historisch tijdschrift* 33:3 (2011), 159-170.

INVITED LECTURES

“European Innocence?”, *A European Identity?* Conference organized by FC Sophia, Radboud University, June 17, 2021

“Blue Humanities” (with Joris Schapendonk), Gender & Diversity Studies, Radboud University, January 19, 2021.

“Race and Esotericism”, *GEM Research Forum* (Gnosticism, Esotericism, Mysticism), Rice University, February 21, 2020.

“Reading Black Man’s History”, *The Religious Thought of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X* class, Rice University, September 26, 2019.

“Productive Tension: Religion in the Writings of Sylvia Wynter,” *Race-Religion Constellation*, Radboud University Nijmegen, September 17, 2019.

“Malcolm X, the Final Words,” *The Religious Thought of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X* class, Rice University, November 10 2016.

“Malcom X and Elijah Muhammad: The Split,” *The Religious Thought of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X* class, Rice University, October 4 2016.

“The Myth of Yakub”, *The Religious Thought of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X* class, Rice University, September 15 2016.

“Nation of Islam and the Bible,” *The Bible and Western Cultures* class, University of Houston, November 11 2014.

“The Nation of Islam and Conspiracy Theory,” *Occult Trajectories* class, University of Amsterdam, May 8 2013.

CONFERENCES

Panels Organized

“Sylvia Wynter and Religion”, American Academy of Religion (AAR), Denver (November 2018).

Papers Presented

- “The Unbearable Whiteness of *Midsommar*, or, What Ari Aster’s Film May Tell Us About Esoteric Studies”, European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism (ESSWE): *Western Esotericism and Creativity*, University College Cork (July 2022; forthcoming)
- “‘Exaqua:’ Engaging the Blue Humanities with M. NourbeSe Philip and Ellen Gallagher”, *Environment and Identity in the Americas*, University of Essex (April 2021; forthcoming)
- “‘Doing Disciplinary History’ with Sylvia Wynter”, *British Association for the Study of Religion*, University of Edinburgh (September 2021)
- “Black Blue Religion”, *American Academy of Religion* (AAR), online (November 29, 2020)
- “‘Beneath the Loveliest Tints of Azure’: On Ellen Gallagher, Whale Fall, and Symbiosis”, *Planet Ocean*, Dublin (September 2019).
- “Osedax: Life and Death in Ellen Gallagher’s Whale Fall Works”, *Art and the Sea*, Liverpool (September 2019)
- “Productive Tension: Religion in the Writings of Sylvia Wynter”, American Academy of Religion (AAR), Denver (November 2018).
- “On the Afterlife of Those Who Drowned: Ellen Gallagher’s *Watery Ecstatic*, Oceanic Feeling, and Mysticism in the Flesh,” American Academy of Religion (AAR), Boston (November 2017).
- “Middle Passage Temporality in Ellen Gallagher’s *Watery Ecstatic* Series,” Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts (SLSA): *Out of Time*, Phoenix (November 2017).
- “Contagious Kin: Sociality and Resistance in Ishmael Reed’s *Mumbo Jumbo*,” USC Cinema and Media Graduate Conference: *Contagion*, Los Angeles (October 2017).
- “Race in/and the Construct and Study of Western Esotericism,” European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism (ESSWE): *Western Esotericism and Deviance*, Erfurt, Germany (June 2017).
- “The Nation of Islam and Scientology: A New Path Towards Black Empowerment?”, European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism (ESSWE): *Western Esotericism and Health*, Stockholm, Sweden (June 2013).
- “Unveiling the Number 19”: Secrecy, Concealment and Revelation in the Religious Thought of Mother Tynnetta Muhammad”, Center for Studies on New Religions (CESNUR): *Changing Religious Movements in a Changing World*, Falun, Sweden (June 2013; invited).
- “They Know Who We Are. The Nation of Islam’s ‘Conspiracy Theory’ About American Freemasonry”, *Edges of Freemasonry – Western Esotericism and the Enlightenment*, Tampere, Finland (September 2012).
- “The Black Esoteric Milieu. Black Religion and (Western) Esotericism”, *Contemporary Esotericism*, Stockholm, Sweden (August 2012).
- “Allah, in the person of Fard Muhammad. Sources and Influences in the Nation of Islam’s Doctrines of Black Divinity and Incarnation”, Association for the Study of Esotericism (ASE): *Esotericism, Religion and Culture*, Davis, California, United States (July 2012).

Roundtables Participated

“Global Modernism Forum”, Rice University, Houston (April 2018; invited).

“Thinking Through the Long Anthropocene in the United States: A Roundtable,”
Cultures of Energy 6, Rice University, Houston (April 2017; invited).

Respondent

“Race and Religion, PhD Seminar”, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (May 2021; invited)

RELEVANT SERVICE AND WORK EXPERIENCE

2021-present

Editor-in-Chief, *Correspondences: Journal for the Study of Esotericism*
(<https://correspondencesjournal.com/>)

2019-2021

Book Review Editor for *Correspondences: Journal for the Study of Esotericism*
(<https://correspondencesjournal.com/>)

2013-2019

Center for Engaged Research and Collaborative Learning (CERCL)

- Organized and judge for annual Houston (HISD) high school essay contest
- Organized and lead annual essay-writing workshops for high school students
- Coordinated visiting scholar lectures as part of the African American Religious Studies Forum speaker series at Rice University
- Produced podcast interview series “What’s the Thesis?” for the African American Religious Studies Forum speaker series at Rice University
(<http://afam.blogs.rice.edu/african-american-religion-forum/podcast/>)
- Created and managed African American Religious Studies website
(<http://afam.blogs.rice.edu/>)
- Coordinated content for and managed “Embodying Religion” website
(<https://www.embodyingreligion.org/>)

2017-2018

Reli@Rice Mentorship Program

- Mentee: Isaac Schultz (class of 2018)
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ASSOCIATIONS, NETWORKS AND MEMBERSHIPS

European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism (2011 – present)

American Academy of Religion (2012 – present)

Race, Religion, and Secularism Network (2019 – present)

Race-Religion Constellation Project (2020 – present)

Dutch Association for Religious Studies (NGG; 2020 – present)
