

**JENNY WILEY LEGATH**  
[jlegath@princeton.edu](mailto:jlegath@princeton.edu)  
Center for the Study of Religion  
3-C-12 Green Hall | Princeton, NJ 08540 | 609-258-2281

### **Employment**

- **Associate Director**, Center for the Study of Religion, Princeton University (Fall 2004 to present)
- **Acting Director**, June 2019-June 2020

### **Education**

- **Ph.D., Princeton University, 2008**  
Department of Religion, Religion in America Program  
Dissertation: The Phoebe Phenomenon: The Protestant Deaconess Movement in the United States, 1880-1930  
Advisor: R. Marie Griffith
- **M.A., Princeton University, 2002**  
Department of Religion, Religion in America Program  
General Examination Areas:
  - Colonial Era and New Republic: New England Puritanism, Religion and the Enlightenment in America, Religious Encounters in the Colonial Atlantic World
  - Nineteenth and Twentieth Century: Protestantism and Gender, New Thought, Catholicism, Judaism
- **M.T.S., Harvard University, The Divinity School, 1999**  
Christianity and Culture Concentration:  
Focused on the history of religion in the United States, supplemented by work in women in religion, European church history, Judaism, and non-Western Christianity
- **A.B., Randolph-Macon Woman's College, 1997**  
Junior year: **University of Reading**, England, with lectures and tutorials in religious studies at **Green College** and **Mansfield College, University of Oxford**  
Major: Religion; Concentration: Language Studies  
Valedictorian, *Summa Cum Laude*, Phi Beta Kappa, Departmental Honors

### **Teaching Experience**

- REL 521-522 "Religion and Culture" Graduate Student Workshop, Princeton University, 2019-2020, 2020-2021
- Center for the Study of Religion Seminary Teaching Internship: Visiting Instructor, "American Christianity from the Colonial Era to the Civil War," Co-Taught with James Moorhead, Princeton Theological Seminary, Fall 2003
- Instructor, "Religion in America," Rowan University, Summer 2003
- Assistant in Instruction, "Approaches to the Study of Religion," Jeffrey Stout, Princeton University, Spring 2003
- Instructor, Senior Thesis Writing Workshop, Religion Department, Princeton University, 2002-2003
- Assistant in Writing Instruction, "Religion in American Society" Leigh Schmidt, Princeton University, Summer 2000

### Selected Publications

- *Sanctified Sisters: A History of Protestant Deaconesses*, New York: New York University Press, 2019
- “Diaconia in Christianity in North America: Lutheran and Methodist Diaconal Movements.” *Contextual Theologies of Diaconia – An Ecumenical Textbook on Training for Christian Social Services*. Geneva: World Council of Churches, forthcoming.
- “North American Diaconia and the Deaconess Movement,” 289-296. In *International Handbook on Ecumenical Diakonia*, eds. Godwin Ampony et al. Oxford: Regnum Books, 2021.
- “Deaconess Movement.” In *Encyclopedia of American Women’s History*, ed. Hasia Diner. New York: Facts on File, 2011.

### Selected Presentations

- Invited Panelist, Dialogue with the Author session: Lynn Neal, *Religion in Vogue: Christianity and Fashion in America*, accepted for American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Antonio, November 2021
- “The Embodied Ritual Practice of Women’s Concealed Carry of Firearms,” accepted for the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Antonio, November 2021
- “Sheepdog Masculinity: Concealed Carry in Churches as Performance of Hegemonic Masculinity” presented at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, online, November 2020
- “Protestant Deaconesses and the Creation of Sanctified Fictive Families” presented at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Francisco, November 2019
- “A Historian at the Intersection of Public Memory and Family History: My Great-Great Grandfather’s ‘Narrative from an Old Confederate’” presented at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Francisco, November 2019
- “Does Gender Matter? Conflicting Ideas of Gender, Sexuality, and Ministry in the Methodist and Lutheran Deaconess Offices” presented at the American Society of Church History Annual Meeting, January 2019
- “Do Women have a Special Gift for Service? Conflicting Ideas of Gender and Ministry in the Methodist and Lutheran Deaconess Offices” presented at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Denver, November 2018
- “Diaconal Maternalism” within the session “Feminism or Public Housekeeping? Liberal Protestant Women’s Work in the Twentieth Century,” presented at the American Society of Church History Annual Meeting, January 2018
- Invited panelist for “Unsettled: Critiquing Categories of Professional Identity in American Higher Education” Special Topics Forum, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Diego, November 2014
- “Sex and the City: Protestant Deaconesses Solve the Urban Crisis and Answer the Woman Question,” presented at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Chicago, November 1-3, 2008.
- “Silk Hoods, Deaconess Bonnets, and Nuns’ Habits: Debating Women’s Dress in American Christianity” Organized Papers Session and presented at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, November 19-22, 2005

- “The Protestant Deaconess as Alternative ‘New Woman,’” presented at the American Academy of Religion Regional Meeting, New Brunswick, NJ, March 13-14, 2003
- “Vegetarian Practices in the Unity School of Christianity,” presented at the American Academy of Religion Regional Meeting, Baltimore, Maryland, March 14-15, 2002
- Review of *Jonathan Edwards Confronts the Gods* by Gerald McDermott, *Koinonia: The Princeton Theological Seminary Graduate Forum* 13:2 (Fall 2001): 252-254
- “New York Settlement Houses and Jewish Immigrant Food Reform,” presented at the Conference on the Function of Food in Religious Life, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, August 25-26, 2000

**Professional Memberships**

- American Academy of Religion
  - Applied Religious Studies Committee, 2019-present
  - Graduate Student Liaison for the Mid-Atlantic Region, 2002-2003
- American Society of Church History
  - Member, Graduate Student and Independent Scholar Committee, 2019-present