

LINDA BENNETT ELDER
Professor of Religious Studies

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Humanities and History of Religions, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida, Summer 1991

M.A. History of Religions, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida, 1984 Honors in Religion

B.A. Religion; Anthropology, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida, 1979-82. Magna Cum Laude.

HONORS

Phi Beta Kappa, 1983

Phi Kappa Phi, 1983

Proctor Fellowship Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, MA, 1988

PUBLICATIONS

"Lady Nijo and Teresa of Avila: Paths Taken" in Revisiting Mysticism, G.K. Haist and Chandana Chakrabarti eds. Cambridge Scholars Publishing, UK, Fall, 2008

Creating Women: An Interdisciplinary Anthology of Readings on Women and Western Culture, J. G. Bryant and L. Bennett Elder eds. Volumes I and II, Prentice Hall, Fall 2004.

"Virgins, Viragos and Virtuo(u)si: Judiths in Opera and Oratorio"(pp.91-119) Journal for the Study of the Old Testament, Issue 92 Sheffield Academic Press, Sheffield UK, March 2001.

Biblical and Humane: A Celebration of the Life and Work of John F. Priest,

L. Bennett Elder, D. Barr and E. Struthers Malbon (eds.) The Homage Series, (Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1996).

"Judith's Sophia and Synesis: Educated Jewish Women in the Late Second Temple Period," in Biblical and Humane: A Celebration of the Life and Work of John F. Priest The Homage Series (Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1996).

"The Woman Question: Female Ascetics at Qumran" in Biblical Archaeologist, Vol. 57 December 1994.

"Judith" in Searching the Scriptures v. II, Elisabeth Schussler Fiorenza, ed., (N.Y: Crossroads Press, 1994).

PROFESSIONAL

PRESENTATIONS

International, National and Regional

* Invited Paper "Nussbaum Revisited, and the MDG" International, Interdisciplinary Conference: Human Rights, Personal Freedom and Justice, Bethany College, Bethany W. Virginia, April 12, 2008

*Invited Paper "The United Religions Initiative," International Conference: Terrorism, Pacifism in a Culture of War", Bethany College, Bethany W. Virginia, November 10, 2007

"A Clarion Call to the Sages" International Conference: Politics, Pluralism and Religion. University of Minnesota,, Mankato Campus, Mankato, MN. April 13-14, 2007

*Hosted "The Global Diversity Coalition and the MDG" Valdosta State University, Valdosta GA. January 14-16, 2006

*Invited paper "The Quest for Peace Grounded in Equity and Sustainability: Embodying Transitions for Systemic Change," The Delhi Peace Summit, Parliament of the World's Religions, New Delhi, India, December 5-7 2003

*Invited paper "Pragmatic Methods for Utilizing the Capabilities Approach," Invited Speaker for the Première of WEBB Canada, Women Building Bridges Globally, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. June 19, 2003

"Indiaquest" The Pilgrimage Project, Church Divinity School of the Pacific, GTU, Berkeley CA, April 24-28, 2003

"The Pilgrimage Project...a brief introduction" "Serving the Sacred, Saving the World" The United Religions Initiative Global Assembly, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. August 17-28, 2002

"Women Spirituality: Ethics, Praxis and Social Change," Executive Director, Convenor, The Pilgrimage Project: Conversation One West, Ghost Ranch, Abiquiui, NM. October 18-21, 2001.

"Women's Spiritual Practices and Social Change," The Pilgrimage Project: Conversation One East, Project Director, Pittsburgh PA, October 6-8, 2000.

"Women's Place in the Bible and Song of Songs,"*Invited lecture: "The Themes in Judy Chicago's Art: Multidisciplinary Perspectives" for a retrospective exhibition "Judy Chicago, Trials and Tributes" Spring Lecture Series, Museum of Fine Arts, Florida State University. April 1999.

"Virgins, Viragos and Virtuo(u)si: Judiths in Opera and Oratorio," Arts. Literature and Religion Section. The Annual Meeting, American Academy of Religion, Society of Biblical Literature. Orlando, Florida, November, 1998.

"Hidden Agendas: Cross Cultural Perspectives on Austerities in Women's Spiritual Practices," The Ascetic Impulse in Religious Life and Culture, The Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion and The Society of Biblical Literature, San Francisco, California, November 21-25, 1997.

"Moving Beyond Hatred" a presentation at the National Collegiate Honors Council Conference, Atlanta GA. October, 1997.

"Biblical and Humane: A Tribute to John F. Priest" on the occasion of the presentation of his *Festschrift* at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion and the Society of Biblical Literature, New Orleans, LA, November, 1996.

"Genre, Gender and Agenda: Transformations of Judith in the Arts," The 10th Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, June 6-8 1996, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

"The Judith's of Artemisia Gentileschi, Friedrich Hebbel and Martha Graham," Gender and Cultural Criticism Consultation, Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Philadelphia, PA, November, 18-21, 1995.

Review of Asceticism for "The Ascetic Dimension in Religious Life and Culture" Panel Member, Ascetic Impulse Group, Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Philadelphia, PA, November 18-21, 1995.

"Genre, Gender and Agenda: Transformations of Judith in the Arts," SEWSA Conference "Gendered Space", Florida State University, October 13-14, 1994. (This is the first of a series of presentations to explore a nexus among women, religion and the visual and performing arts).

"Judith's Sophia and *Synesis*: Educated Jewish Women in the Late Second Temple Period," Hellenistic Judaism Section, Society of Biblical Literature, National Meetings, Washington, D.C., November, 19-22, 1994.

"Theraputides, Judith, Anna and Essenes: Jewish Female Ascetics in the Late Second Temple Period," The Berkshire Conference of Women Historians. "1993 Berkshire Conference on the History of Women" Vassar College, Poughkeepsie NY, June 11-13, 1993.

"Shekhinah and Sophia: Origins, Agendas, and Implications among Jewish and Christian Women in Antiquity" International Blaisdell Conference on "Women and Goddess Traditions", Claremont, CA, May, 1992.

"Female Ascetics at Qumran," Qumran Section, Annual Meeting of The Society for Biblical Literature, Kansas City, MO, November, 1991.

"Five Provisional Models for Female Ascetics in the Late Second Temple Period," Women and Religion Section, Annual Meeting of The American Academy of Religion, Kansas, City, MO, November, 1991.

"Ecstasy and Order in the Song of the Sea, The Hymn of Jesus, and the Paschal Pilota Dance," Annual Meeting of The American Academy of Religion, Chicago, IL, November, 1984.

"Miriam and the Magdalene," American Academy of Religion, S.E. Regional Meetings, Williamsburg, VA Spring, 1984.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Academy of Religion (1984-present)

Society of Biblical Literature (1984 2001)

Phi Beta Kappa. (1984-present)

Phi Kappa Phi (1984-present). Officer, Valdosta Chapter 1994-2008

The United Religions Initiative (2002-present, Trustee:Global Council 2008-2011)

ACLU

Regional Organizations

South GA Peace Coalition, 2003

CASE (Citizen's Alliance for Social Equality) Co-Founder, Summer 2000)

Valdosta Project Change (Board of Directors, Spring 1995-2001)

AWARE (Advocacy for Victims of Spousal and Child Abuse) Sharon, PA. (Board Member 1992-1994)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Professor, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Valdosta State University, Valdosta, GA, Spring, 2004 to present

Associate Professor Department of Philosophy, Valdosta State University, Valdosta, GA. Spring, 1998.

Assistant Professor Department of Philosophy, Valdosta State University, Valdosta, GA. Fall 1994.

Assistant Professor, Thiel College, Greenville, PA 1991-1994.

New Majors (2002) Introduced Interdisciplinary Major in Religious Studies and the Human Community; Major in Religious Studies 2002. We are now, formally, The Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies as of 2006-2007

Introduced the following Core Courses into VSU Curriculum: Women in Western Humanities(Area C-Core curriculum, Women's Studies) World Religions(Revised for Area C-Core Curriculum) PERS Female Heroes in Religion and Art;

Developed and Added to the University curriculum in the College of Arts and Sciences: Honors World Religions, Old Testament -Hebrew Bible, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, History of Christianity I, II and III

New Courses developed and taught since 2004: Women in India; International Peace Initiatives I and II, World Religions for Web CT-Vista, Women in the New Testament World

GRANTS

Spring 1995-Present: Center for Faculty Development and Instructional Improvement, Valdosta State University. Received funding for the presentation of professional papers at national, regional and international conferences presented:

Spring, 1995, November 1995, June 1996, November, 1996, March and November 1997; March and November 1998, November 1999, October 2000, March and October 2001, August 2002, December 2003, April and October 2005. April and September 2007, September 2008.

VSU Center for International Programs

November-December 2003; November-December 2008

October 2000: The Sister Fund, Discretionary funding to support attendance of women who could not otherwise attend "Conversation One: Women's Spiritual Practices and Social Change" in Pittsburgh PA, The Sister Fund, New York, NY

October, 1998: Healing the Heart of Diversity, A series of four colloquia/retreats for scholars, educators, leaders and change agents professionally engaged in cultural diversity and organizational change in the workplace. Washington D.C. (January, May, July, November 1999). Sponsored by The Fetzer Institute, Kalamazoo, MI. Scholarship: The Tides Center, San Francisco, CA.

October, 1998: Project Change Cross Site (El Paso, Albuquerque, Knoxville, Valdosta) Retreat, The Alex Haley Farms, Knoxville, TN. Sponsored by The Tides Center, San Francisco, CA.

April 1997: Faculty Development Workshop, For August 17-29 1997. Sponsored by: The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, Office of Instructional Technology, Athens GA.

April 1997: "The Making and Un-making of Whiteness," Department of Ethnic Studies, University of California at Berkeley; VSU Department of Philosophy.

February 1997: Advanced Training: The People's Institute for Survival and Beyond, Waveland, MI. Funded by VSU Office of Equal Opportunity Programs and Multicultural Affairs.

July 1996: The People's Institute for Survival and Beyond, New Orleans, LA. Weekend workshops in anti-racist approaches to institutional racism. Funded by Valdosta Project Change.

**SERVICE TO THE ACADEMIC INSTITUTION
AND THE COMMUNITY: Please see the Philosophy and Religious Studies web-site for Complete CV**