

CATHERINE WESSINGER

Rev. H. James Yamauchi, S.J. Professor of the History of Religions
Loyola University New Orleans

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Religious Studies
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FIELD

History of Religions: Religions of India, World Religions
Women and Religions
New Religious Movements, Millennialism
History of Christianity

EDUCATION

Ph.D. 1985 University of Iowa (School of Religion)
Dissertation: "Millenarianism in the Thought of Annie Besant"

B.F.A. 1974 University of South Carolina

EMPLOYMENT AND TEACHING

present - Loyola University
Fall 1986 New Orleans, LA

Undergraduate courses
Religions of the World
Women in World Religions
World Religions - Honors
Women in Christianity
Hindu Paths to God
Women's Studies Seminar
Readings Seminar for R.S. Majors (1 hr.)
Religion & Media (interactive video seminar)
Religious Responses to Disaster
Buddhism
Tibetan and Indian Religions
Contemporary Issues & Conflicts in World Religions
(Honors)
Fundamentals of Conflict and Peace (team-taught with
History professor)
New Orleans Religions (Freshman-Year Experience)

course)
Cults and Religions (Honors seminar)

Graduate courses
Women in Religions & Cultures
Millennium Seminar
Religions of Asia

Loyola University New Orleans Professional Chronology

sabbatical 2011-12
Rev. H. James Yamauchi, S. J., Professor of the History of Religions, Fall 2006-present
sabbatical 2004-05
Dept. Chair 1998-2000
Professor 1998
sabbatical 1997-98
tenure 1995
Associate Professor 1992-98
ordinary (tenure track) 1990-92
extraordinary (adjunct) 1987-90
part-time 1986-87
Assistant Professor 1986-92

Summer 1988	Adjunct Assist. Prof.	<u>Courses</u>
Spring 1987	University College	Society, Women and Religion
Spring 1986	Tulane University	
	New Orleans, LA	

PUBLICATIONS - BOOKS

Annie Besant and Progressive Messianism. Lewiston, N.Y.: Edwin Mellen Press, 1988.

Editor, *Women's Leadership in Marginal Religions: Explorations Outside the Mainstream*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1993.

Editor, *Religious Institutions and Women's Leadership: New Roles Inside the Mainstream*. Studies in Comparative Religion Series. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1996.

Editor, *Millennialism, Persecution, and Violence: Historical Cases*. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2000.

How the Millennium Comes Violently: From Jonestown to Heaven's Gate. New York: Seven Bridges Press, 2000. Available in pdf format at <<http://www.loyno.edu/~wessing>>.

Editor, *Memories of the Branch Davidians: Autobiography of David Koresh's Mother*, by Bonnie Haldeman. Waco: Baylor University Press, 2007.

Editor, *When They Were Mine: Memoirs of a Branch Davidian Wife and Mother*, by Sheila Martin. Waco: Baylor University Press, 2009.

Editor, *Oxford Handbook of Millennialism*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.

Editor with Matthew D. Wittmer, *A Journey to Waco: Autobiography of a Branch Davidian*, by Clive Doyle. Lanham, Md.: Rowman & Littlefield, 2012.

JOURNAL EDITOR

Co-general editor of *Nova Religio: The Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions*, University of California Press. January 2000 to present.

BOOK SERIES EDITOR

Women in Religions. New York University Press. Books published are:

Women in New Religions by Laura Vance (April 2015);
Women in Christian Traditions by Rebecca Moore (April 2015);
Women in Japanese Religions by Barbara R. Ambros (May 2015).

CO-DIRECTOR OF THE WOMEN IN THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS & SPIRITUALITY PROJECT

2014 to present.

On the World Religions and Spirituality Project website,
<<http://www.wrs.vcu.edu/SPECIAL%20PROJECTS/WRSPSpecialProjects.htm>>

CO-DIRECTOR OF STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM

Loyola Himalaya Adventure: Summer Study in Dharamsala, India Program, 2006-2011, 2012 to present.

PUBLICATIONS - CHAPTERS IN BOOKS

"Democracy vs. Hierarchy: The Evolution of Authority in the Theosophical Society." In *When Prophets Die: The Post-Charismatic Fate of New Religious Movements*, ed. Timothy Miller. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1991, 93-106, notes on 218-22.

"Going Beyond and Retaining Charisma: Women's Leadership in Marginal Religions." Introduction to *Women's Leadership in Marginal Religions: Explorations Outside the Mainstream*, ed. Catherine Wessinger. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1993, 1-19.

"Woman Guru, Woman Roshi: The Legitimation of Female Religious Leadership in Hindu and Buddhist Groups in America." In *Women's Leadership in Marginal Religions: Explorations Outside the Mainstream*, ed. Catherine Wessinger. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1993, 125-46.

"The Feminism of 'Universal Brotherhood': Women in the Theosophical Movement," coauthored with Robert Ellwood. In *Women's Leadership in Marginal Religions: Explorations Outside the Mainstream*, ed. Catherine Wessinger. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1993, 68-87.

"Varieties of Millennialism and the Issue of Authority." In *From the Ashes: Making Sense of Waco*, ed. James R. Lewis. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield, 1994, 55-62.

"Eastern Religions." In *The Best in Philosophy and Religion*, ed. Robert S. Ellwood. Vol. 4 of *The Readers'*

Advisor, 14th ed. New Providence, N.J.: R. R. Bauker, 1994, 495-563. The Eastern Religions section includes introductory essays, biographical profiles of significant writers, and annotated bibliographies for the South Asian Traditions, Southeast Asian Traditions, East Asian Traditions, Central Asian Traditions, and Non-Islamic and Non-Jewish Traditions of the Middle East and Northern Africa.

“Women’s Religious Leadership in America.” In *The 1993 Parliament of the World’s Religions: Selected Speeches*, ed. Daniel Ross Chandler. Fort Worth, Tex.: CyberSpace Publishing, 1994.

“Hinduism Arrives in America: The Vedanta Societies and the Self-Realization Fellowship.” In *America’s Alternative Religions*, ed. Timothy Miller. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1995, 173-90.

“Women’s Religious Leadership in the United States.” Introduction to *Religious Institutions and Women’s Leadership: New Roles Inside the Mainstream*, ed. Catherine Wessinger. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1996, 3-36.

“Key Events for Women’s Religious Leadership in the United States - Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries.” Chronology in *Religious Institutions and Women’s Leadership: New Roles Inside the Mainstream*, ed. Catherine Wessinger. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1996, 347-401.

“Millennialism With and Without the Mayhem.” In *Millennium, Messiahs, and Mayhem*, ed. by Thomas Robbins and Susan J. Palmer. New York: Routledge, 1997, 47-59.

“Foreword” to *Hearing the Voices of Jonestown: Putting a Human Face on an American Tragedy*, by Mary McCormick Maaga. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1998, ix-xii.

“The Interacting Dynamics of Millennial Beliefs, Persecution, and Violence.” Introduction to *Millennialism, Persecution, and Violence: Historical Cases*. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2000, 43-61.

“New Religious Movements and Conflicts with Law Enforcement.” In *New Religious Movements and Religious Liberty in America*, ed. Derek H. Davis and Barry Hankins. Waco: J. M. Dawson Institute of Church-State Studies and Baylor University Press, 2002, 115-39.

“Understanding Contemporary Millennial Movements, Peaceful and Violent.” In *Millennialism from the Hebrew Bible to the Present*, ed. Leonard J. Greenspoon and Ronald A. Simkins. Vol. 12. *Studies in Jewish Civilization*. Omaha: Creighton University Press, 2002.

“Mount Carmel’s Lessons on Millennialism, Persecution, and Violence.” In *Waco: Ten Years After: 2003 Fleming Lectures in Religion*, ed. David Tabb Stewart. Georgetown, Tex.: Southwestern University, 2003, 1-20. This volume is available at <<http://www.southwestern.edu/academic/bwp/>>.

“The Branch Davidians and Religion Reporting: A Ten-Year Retrospective.” In *Expecting the End: Millennialism in Social and Historical Context*, ed. Kenneth G. C. Newport and Crawford Gribben, 147-72. Waco: Baylor University Press, 2006.

“New Religious Movements and Violence.” In *New and Alternative Religious Movements in the United States*, ed. Eugene V. Gallagher and W. Michael Ashcraft. Vol. 1: *History and Controversies*, 165-205. Westport, Conn.: Praeger, 2006.

“Millennial Visions and Conflict with Society,” with David G. Bromley. In *The Oxford Handbook of Millennialism*, ed. Catherine Wessinger, 191-212. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.

“Millennialism in Cross-Cultural Perspective.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Millennialism*, ed. Catherine Wessinger, 3-24. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.

“‘Cults’ in America: Discourse and Outcomes.” In *Religions in America*, ed. Stephen J. Stein. Vol. 3, *1945 to the Present*, 511-31. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2012.

“Charismatic Leaders in New Religious Movements.” In *Cambridge Companion to New Religious Movements*, ed. Olav Hammer and Mikael Rothstein, 80-96. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012.

“The Second Generation Leaders of the Theosophical Society (Adyar).” In *Brill Handbook of the Theosophical Current*, ed. Olav Hammer and Mikael Rothstein, 33-50. Brill Handbooks on Contemporary Religion series. Leiden: Brill, 2013.

“Apocalypse and Violence.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Apocalyptic Literature*, ed. John J. Collins, 422-40. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014.

“Millennialism.” In *The Bloomsbury Companion to New Religious Movements*, ed. George D. Chryssides and Benjamin E. Zeller, 133-48. London: Bloomsbury, 2014.

PUBLICATIONS - JOURNAL ARTICLES

“Annie Besant and the World-Teacher: Progressive Messianism for the New Age,” *The Quest* 2 (Spring 1989): 60-69.

“Service to India as Service to the World: Annie Besant’s Work in India for Human Rights,” Part I in *Theosophical History* 3 (January 1990): 19-32; Part II in 3 (April 1990): 51-60.

“Woman Guru, Woman Roshi: The Legitimation of Female Religious Leadership in Hindu and Buddhist Groups in America,” *Gender in World Religions* 2 (1991): 37-68; and reprinted in *Women’s Leadership in Marginal Religions: Explorations Outside the Mainstream*, 125-46, referenced above.

“Annie Besant’s Millennial Movement: Its History, Impact, and Implications Concerning Authority,” with an “Epilogue on David Koresh and the Branch Davidians,” *Syzygy: Journal of Alternative Religion and Culture* 2, no. 1-2 (Winter/Spring 1993): 55-70.

“Annie Besant and Issues in Contemporary Feminist Spirituality: Part One,” *The Quest*, Special Issue 10, no. 1 (March 1997): 26-33, 51; “Part Two,” *The Quest*, Special Issue 10, no. 2 (June 1997): 42-49.

Review Essay: “Understanding the Branch Davidian Tragedy,” *Nova Religio: The Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions* 1, no. 1 (October 1997): 122-38.

“How the Millennium Comes Violently,” *Dialog: A Journal of Theology* 36, no. 4 (Fall 1997): 277-88.

“Religious Studies Scholars, FBI Agents, and the Montana Freeman,” *Nova Religion: The Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions* 3, no. 1 (October 1999): 36-44.

“Teaching about Millennialism, Peace, and Violence,” *Spotlight on Teaching* (American Academy of Religion) 18, no. 4 (October 2003): viii-xii.

“Autobiographies of Three Surviving Branch Davidians: An Initial Report,” *Fieldwork in Religion* 1, no. 2 (September 2005): 165-97.

“Deaths in the Fire at the Branch Davidians’ Mount Carmel: Who Bears Responsibility?” *Nova Religio: Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions* 13, no. 2 (November 2009): 25-60.

“Lee Hancock Collection: Federal and State Materials on the Branch Davidian Case,” *Nova Religio: Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions* 13, no. 2 (November 2009): 114-25.

“Religious Responses to the Katrina Disaster in New Orleans and the American Gulf Coast” (translated into Japanese). *Journal of Religious Studies* (Japanese Association for Religious Studies) 86-2, no. 373 (September 2012): 53-83.

“Integrating New Religions Scholarship into Religious Studies Courses,” *Spotlight on Teaching* (American Academy of Religion), special issue on *Teaching New and Alternative Religious Movements*, ed. Eugene V. Gallagher and Benjamin E. Zeller (January 26, 2015). <<http://rsn.aarweb.org/spotlight-on/teaching/new-alternative-religions/integrating-new-religions-scholarship>>.

PUBLICATIONS – INTERVIEWS IN THE WORLD RELIGIONS & SPIRITUALITY PROJECT FORUM

Interview with Fielding M. McGehee III and Rebecca Moore, “Defining and Preserving the Peoples Temple in Collective Memory,” 2013. <<http://www.has.vcu.edu/wrs/FORUM/McGehee-Moore.pdf>>.

Interview with Stuart A. Wright, “Deadly Encounter at Mount Carmel: The Branch Davidian-Federal Agency Confrontation February 28-April 19, 1993,” 2013. <<http://www.has.vcu.edu/wrs/FORUM/Interview%20with%20Stuart%20Wright.pdf>>.

Interview with Eileen Barker, “How to Be Informed about Minority Religions: Celebrating INFORM on Its Twenty-fifth Anniversary,” 2013. <<http://www.has.vcu.edu/wrs/FORUM/Interview%20with%20Eileen%20Barker.pdf>>.

Interview with Henrietta Stockel, “Honoring the Ancestors and Their Descendants: Chiricahua Apaches,” 2014. <<http://www.wrs.vcu.edu/FORUM/Interview%20with%20Henrietta%20Stockel.pdf>>.

Interview with David Redles, “National Socialism as a Millennial Religion?” 2014. <<http://www.wrs.vcu.edu/FORUM/Interview%20with%20David%20Redles.pdf>>.

Interview with Kate Kelly, “Seeking Equality in the LDS Church: Activism for Women’s Ordination,” 2014. <<http://www.wrs.vcu.edu/FORUM/Interview%20with%20Kate%20Kelly.pdf>>.

Interview with Laura Vance, “Women in New Religions,” 2015. <<http://www.wrs.vcu.edu/FORUM/Interview%20with%20Laura%20Vance.pdf>>.

Interview with Benjamin E. Zeller, “Aspiring for the Stars: Heaven’s Gate,” 2015. <<http://www.wrs.vcu.edu/FORUM/Interview%20with%20Benjamin%20Zeller.pdf>>.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Finalizing manuscript, *Theory of Women in Religions*, for the *Women in Religions* series with New York University Press.

Revising, updating and expanding *How the Millennium Comes Violently: From Jonestown to Heaven’s Gate* to produce *How the Millennium Comes Violently: From Jonestown to Falun Gong* to be published by Rowman & Littlefield.

Writing an article on the FBI and the Branch Davidians for a book on the FBI and Religion edited by Steven P. Weitzman and Sylvester Johnson to be published by University of California Press.