

# Kathleen Roberts Skerrett

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## Education

1993	Ph.D., Theology and the Modern West, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
1984	Called to Bar of Upper Canada
1982	LL.B/J.D., Dalhousie University Law School, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
1979	B.A., Mount Allison University, Sackville, New Brunswick, Canada

## Administrative Appointments

2011–2016	Dean, School of Arts & Sciences, University of Richmond, Richmond, VA
2010–2011	Acting Vice-President for Diversity and Achievement, Grinnell College, Grinnell, IA
2007–2011	Associate Dean of the College, Grinnell College, Grinnell, IA
1996–1997	Chair, Task Force on First Year Experience, McGill University, Montreal, QC
1994–1997	Director, Gardner Hall Residence, McGill University, Montreal, QC

## Academic Appointments

2016-present	University Professor, University of Richmond, Richmond, VA
2011–2016	Professor of Religious Studies, University of Richmond, Richmond, VA
2010–2011	Professor of Religious Studies, Grinnell College, Grinnell, IA
2004–2010	Associate Professor of Religious Studies, Grinnell College, Grinnell, IA
1998–2004	Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, Grinnell College, Grinnell, IA
1993–1998	Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, McGill University, Montreal, PQ

## Awards

2016	ROTC Recognition for Outstanding Leadership from Officers and NCOs
2013	Omicron Delta Kappa Recognition for Outstanding Contributions to Student Success
2011	Alexandra and Martin Symonds Foundation Essay Prize
2005–2006	Visiting Fellow, Center for Religion and Media, New York University
2005–2006	Faith and Life Grant, Louisville Institute
2000–2001	National Endowment for the Humanities Grant,
1994	Royal Bank Teaching Innovation Award
1992	Mellon Dissertation Completion Fellowship
1991	Mellon Dissertation Research Fellowship
1990	Harvard general exams passed, with distinction
1979–1980	Queen's Law School Scholarship
1976–1979	Mount Allison University Scholarship
1977	Hibbert C. Lawrence Prize

## Essays

"Trauma, Tragedy, and Theater: A Conversation with Simon Critchley", In the Wake of Trauma: Psychology and Philosophy for the Suffering Other, eds. Eric R. Severson, Brian W. Becker & David M. Goodman, Duquesne University Press, 2016

"Reflections on The Book of Only Enoch", in Jay Bolotin: The Book of Only Enoch, published on the occasion of the exhibitions at University of Richmond, October 2015 and Bates College, June 2016, University of Richmond Museums, 15-22.

"Dialogical Postscript" with James Wetzel, in James Wetzel, Parting Knowledge: Essays after Augustine, Wipf & Stock (Cascade), 2013.

["Religious Freedom and Multiculturalism: Canadian Contentions,"](#) The Immanent Frame, August, 2013.

["The Photographs of Lui Xia,"](#) The Contemporary Condition, February, 2013.

"Beyond consent: David Mamet's Oleanna and a hostile environment for souls," Studies in Gender and Sexuality, 12.4, 2011, 233-253.

["Sovereignty and Sadness: Tragic Vision and Wisdom's Grief,"](#) Augustinian Studies, 41.1, 2010, 301-314.

"Negotiating Feminist and Gender Studies: A Roundtable Response," Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion, 26.1, 2010, 123-142.

["Consuetudo Carnalis in Augustine's Confessions: Confessing Identity/Belonging to Difference,"](#) Journal of Religious Ethics, 37.3, 2009, 495-512.

"Radical Democracy and Ordinary Time: Reflections on Hauerwas and Coles," Theology Today, 66.1, April 2009, 74-80.

["Sex, Law, and Other Reasonable Endeavors,"](#) Differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies 18.3, 2007, 81-96.

["Practice and Improvise: A Christian Response to the Politics of Morality,"](#) Expositions, 1.2, 2007, 3-16.

["Homosexuals, Heretics and Practices of Freedom,"](#) Studies in Gender and Sexuality, 6 (4) Fall/Winter 2005.

["Political Liberalism and the Idea of Public Reason: A Response to Jeffrey Stout's Democracy and Tradition,"](#) Social Theory and Practice, 31.2, April 2005, 1-18.

["The Indispensable Rival: William Connolly's Engagement with Augustine of Hippo,"](#) Journal of the American Academy of Religion, 72.2, June 2004, 487-506. Response by William E. Connolly in the same volume.

["Desire and Anathema: Mimetic Rivalry in Defense of Plenitude,"](#) Journal of the American Academy of Religion, 71.4, December 2003; 793-809.

["To Be a Soul in Time,"](#) The Liberal Arts and Vocation: Three Faculty Scholars' Convocations. A publication of Grinnell College with support from the Lilly Endowment, 2002.

["When No Means Yes: The Passion of Carter Heyward,"](#) Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion, 12.1, Spring 1996, 71-92.

## Selected Talks

"[Post-secularism and the Return of Original Sin: The Wanton, the Addict, the Pervert, and the Deviant](#)". President's address to the Canadian Theological Society, Waterloo, Ontario, May 29, 2012.

"Educating freedom for the twenty-first century." Keynote address to the Charter Associates 22nd Annual Celebration, University of Richmond, September 7, 2012.

"[2011 Colloquy](#)," presented to the faculty and staff of the University of Richmond, August 17, 2011.

"Welcome to the Class of 2014," presented at New Student Orientation, August 2010.

[Presentation to the Board of Trustees](#), Grinnell Prison Education Program, April 2009.

"[To Be a Soul in Time](#)," Scholar's Convocation, presented to Grinnell College, September 2002.

[Baccalaureate Address to the Class of 2001](#), May 2001.

"[Freedom, Discipline, Desire](#)," presented to the alumni of Grinnell College, June 1999.

## Conference Papers

"On Honor and Liberal Education," Plenary Lecture for Honor Week, University of Richmond, April 2016.

"William E. Connolly's Contestations Regarding Evil," Respondent, Canadian Theological Society, Montreal, Quebec, May 31, 2010.

"Sovereignty and Sadness: Ambiguities of Power and Love," Saint Augustine: Reconsiderations III Conference, Villanova University, September 19, 2009.

"From Instrumental to Liturgical Relations: Radical Democracy and Radical Ordinary," American Political Science Association, Toronto, Canada, September 5, 2009.

"John Rawls, Sovereignty and the Suspension of Anathema," Canadian Theological Society, Ottawa, Canada, May 25, 2009.

"Augustine on Public Theology," Respondent to three papers, Canadian Theological Society, May 25, 2009.

"God and Country," Panelist, Cultural Studies Association, New York, May 22, 2008.

"Radical Ordinary; Radical Democracy: Stanley Hauerwas and Romand Coles in Conversation," Society for Christian Ethics, Atlanta, GA, January 6, 2008.

"Freedom and Docility: A Response to Saba Mahmood's Politics of Piety," Annual American Academy of Religion Conference, San Diego, November 17, 2007.

"Time for Liberal Theology? Towards an Eschatology of Ordinary Time," Annual American Academy of Religion Conference, Liberal Theologies Consultation Washington, D.C., November 19, 2007.

"Sexual Invective and the Politics of Morality," Body Counts/Bodies Count Conference, Center for Religion and Media, New York University, May 4, 2006.

"New Natural Law Theory: A Rational Basis for U.S. Marriage Law," Bridging Seminar, Center for Religion and Media, New York University, April 7, 2006.

"An Agonistic Basis for the Principle of Reciprocity," Sex, Secularism and Other Religious Matters Working Group, New York University, March 10, 2006.

"Practice and Improvise: The Discipline of Democratic Pluralism," Augustine and Politics Conference, Villanova University, February 24, 2006.

"How might human life be shaped in a Christian way?" Louisville Faith and Life Consultation, Indianapolis, IN, February 9-10, 2006.

"Imagining Political Spaces in Feminist Perspective," Respondent. Annual American Academy of Religion Conference, Philadelphia, PA, November 20, 2005.

"Democratic Tradition and Fundamental Liberties: From Bowers v. Hardwick to Lawrence v. Texas," Annual American Academy of Religion Conference, Philadelphia, PA, November 20, 2005.

"Eric Santner and the Condition of Love," Respondent. Canadian Theological Society, London, Ontario, May 31, 2005.

"Rethinking the Alliance between Feminism and Secularism," Respondent. Roundtable on Contemporary Trends in Feminist Theory, Center for the Humanities, Grinnell College, April 15, 2005.

"Christian Theology, Secularism, and Our Technological Destiny," Midwest American Academy of Religion, Chicago, IL, April 9, 2005.

"Suffering Agency: Reading Masculinity in Mel Gibson's The Passion of the Christ," Annual American Academy of Religion Conference, Religion and Men's Studies Section, San Antonio, TX, November 21, 2004.

"Reciprocity and Agonistic Democracy," Annual American Academy of Religion Conference, Pragmatism and Empiricism Section, San Antonio, TX, November 20, 2004.

"Jeffrey Stout on John Rawls: The Idea of Public Reason Revisited—Again," Canadian Society for the Study of Religion Meeting, Winnipeg, Manitoba, May 30, 2004.

"Rhetorics of Motherhood," Respondent. American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, GA, November 2003.

"Towards a More-Than-Secular Liberalism: The Political Theories of William E. Connolly and Rowan Williams," Canadian Theological Society, Halifax, NS, May 2003.

"Freedom of Conscience and Freedom of Sexual Expression: A Response to Love the Sin by Janet Jakobsen and Ann Pellegrini," Annual American Academy of Religion Conference, Toronto, November 2002.

"A Theoretical Approach to Pain as a Strategy of Religious Formation," Canadian Theological Society/Society for the Study of Religion, Toronto, May 2002.

"Ideas of Freedom in the Feminist Hagiography of Christian Women Ascetics," Annual American Academy of Religion Conference, Nashville, TN, November 2000.

"Hadewijch's Disconcerting Thought: Diaphorescence and the Storm of Love (Orewoet)," Annual American Academy of Religion Conference, Chicago, IL, November 1994.

"By Grand Central Station I Sat Down and Wept: For Love is Strong as Death," New England Regional American Academy of Religion Conference, Boston, MA, April 1993.

"The Rhetoric of Pain in Late Medieval Christian Mystics," Annual American Academy of Religion Conference, Kansas City, MO, November 1991.

### **Invited Lectures**

"Anxiety and Ethics" Nicholson Lectures, Atlantic School of Theology, forthcoming October 2016

"Social Contract or Commonwealth: The Person as Citizen of a Pluralist Society," King's College, Halifax, NS, October 7, 2010.

"Critics of John Rawls's Political Liberalism: Justice without Goodness," Schulich School of Law, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS, October 6, 2010.

"Theological Rawls: Person, Sin, and Community," Department of Philosophy, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS, October 6, 2010.

"Augustine and Politics," Atlantic School of Theology, Augustine Seminar, Halifax, NS, October 2008.

"Practice and Improve: An Augustinian Response to the Politics of Morality," Emmanuel College, University of Toronto, January 22, 2007.

"Sex, Law, and Other Reasonable Endeavors," Wednesday Lunch Series, Chicago University Divinity School, April 19, 2006.

"The Askesis of Community," Trinity House, St. George's Anglican Church, Halifax, NS, February 11, 2005.

"Claiming Our Wisdom in a Dangerous Time," Keynote Speaker, Canadian Association for Pastoral Practice and Education, Annual Meeting, Halifax, NS, February 11, 2005.

"Religious Freedom in a Secular Society," Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Des Moines, Visiting Scholars' Program, November 15, 2004.

"David Mamet's Oleanna and 'The Life of the Human Soul,'" Religious Studies and Performance Studies Forum, New York University, October 19, 2004.

"Christian Theology and Post Secular Democracy," Dr. Allan Pollok Lectures, Atlantic School of Theology, Halifax, NS. The series included four public lectures, October 2003.

"Pain and the Soul," John Sweeney Lecture on Current Issues in Healthcare, St. Jerome Centre, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, October 2003.

"Pain and the Care of the Soul: A Panel," St. Jerome Centre, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, October 2003.

"To Be a Soul in Time," Scholars' Convocation, Lilly Series on Vocation and the Liberal Arts, Grinnell College September 2002. This lecture was featured in Martin E. Marty's newsletter Context, vol. 36.7 Part B, July 2004.

"On Love and Leave-Taking," Baccalaureate Address, Grinnell College, May 2001.

"Desire, Discipline, and Freedom," Alumni College, Grinnell College, June 1999.

"Radiant Grief: Mystical Theology of Desire and Loss," Alison Stewart-Patterson Memorial Lectures, Presbyterian College, Montreal, Canada, January 1997.

"First Witnesses: Women among Early Christian Missionaries," Plenary Speaker, Montreal Presbyterian Women's Missionary Society Retreat, Montreal, June 1995.

"First Witnesses: Women in Early Christianity," Adult Education Lecture Series, Montreal Anglican Diocesan College, October 1994.

"Adam and Eve before the Fall or Love in the Garden," University Sunday Sermon, Christchurch Cathedral, Montreal, October 1994.

## Reviews

"On Course: A Week-by-Week Guide to Your First Semester of College Teaching," Teaching Theology & Religion. Eric Gregory. "Politics and the Order of Loss: An Augustinian Ethic of Democratic Citizenship," Studies Christian Ethics, Spring 2010.

Kristen Deede Johnson. "Theology, Political Theory, and Pluralism: Beyond Difference and Tolerance." Politics & Religion, 1.3, 2008, 14-16.

Kimerer LaMothe, "Nietzsche's Dancers," Journal of the American Academy of Religion, 75.2, June 2007, 484-487.

David L. Eng and David Kazanjian, eds. "Loss: The Politics of Mourning," Journal of the American Academy of Religion, 74.1, Spring 2006.

Janet Jakobsen and Ann Pellegrini's "Love the Sin: Sexual Regulation and the Limits of Religious Tolerance," Journal of the American Academy of Religion, 71.3, September 2003, 695-698.

Ariel Glucklich's "Sacred Pain," Journal of Religion, 82.4, October 2002, 681-682.  
Thomas Ryan's "Prayer of Heart and Body," Montreal Catholic Times, January 1995.

## Other Professional Service

2016-present	Board of Trustees, Institute for Humane Education
2011–2012	President, Canadian Theological Society
Peer Reviewer	Journal of the American Academy of Religion Political Theology, Fordham University Press, Duke University Press, Social Theory and Practice, Political Theology, Philosophy and Rhetoric, Studies in Christian Ethics