

# Valerie A. Karras, Th.D., Ph.D.

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<b>Degree</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Year</b>
Ph.D.	Church History	Catholic University of America	Washington, D.C.	2002
Th.D.	Patristics	Aristotle Univ. of Thessaloniki	Thessaloniki, Greece	1991
Diploma	Byzantine Music	Alex. Tournaissen Odeon/ Greek Ministry of Culture	Athens, Greece	1990
M.T.S. (with High Distinction)	Theology	Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology	Brookline, Mass.	1982
B.A.	Political Science	Washington University	St. Louis, Missouri	1979

## Teaching and Research Areas

- Early church history and historical theology (expertise: Greek patristics)
- Byzantine church history (expertise: 5th-11th centuries)
- Relations between the Orthodox and Catholic Churches (historical and contemporary)
- Women in the Eastern Church and in the classical world; Orthodoxy and feminism
- The Orthodox Church; Orthodox ecumenical relations and comparative theology

## Academic Work History

Assistant Professor of History of Christianity, 2005-  
Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas

Adjunct Lecturer, Spring 2006  
Patriarch Athenagoras Orthodox Institute, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, California

Research Associate, 2003-2004  
Thesaurus Linguae Graecae, University of California, Irvine, California

Assistant Professor of Greek Patristics, 1998-2003  
Department of Theological Studies, Saint Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri

Assistant Director, Institutional Planning and Special Projects, 1996-1997  
Hellenic College and Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, Brookline, Massachusetts

Assistant Professor, 1994-1996  
Hellenic College and Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, Brookline, Massachusetts

Fellow-in-Residence, 1993-1994  
Hellenic College and Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, Brookline, Massachusetts

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## **Academic Work History (cont'd)**

Lecturer, 1993 and 1998

Department of Religious Studies, Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri, Spring 1998

Department of Classics, Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri, Summer 1993

Department of Religious Studies, Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri, Spring 1993

## **Courses Taught**

### *Undergraduate Courses*

Byzantine History

Comparative Christianity

Eastern Orthodox Christianity

Images of Women in Christian Tradition

New Testament Greek

Theological Foundations

Women in Ancient Greece and Rome

World Religions

### *Doctoral Directed Readings Course*

Second-Century Christianity

### *Graduate Courses*

Church History/The Christian Heritage

Early Christian Art

Gender Issues in Orthodoxy

Iconoclasm and the Theology of the Icon

Male, Female and the Body in Greek

Patristic Anthropology

Patristic Anthropology and Soteriology

Research Problems in Early Church

Rome and Constantinople

Sex/Gender in Greek & Latin Patristic Thought

Women in the History of Christianity

## **Books and Articles in Progress**

*Women in the Byzantine Liturgy*, Oxford University Press (forthcoming 2011)

*War and Orthodox Christian Thought* (working title), co-editor with Perry Hamalis (contributors currently working on their respective articles; book proposal submitted to Baker Academic with publication expected in 2012)

“War and Military Service in Origen and Basil,” in *War and Orthodox Christian Thought*, Perry Hamalis and Valerie A. Karras, eds. (second draft completed, final revisions in progress)

“Byzantine Exegeses of the Creation of Woman in Genesis” (in progress), in *Women and the Bible in Byzantine and Medieval Christianity*, ed. Valerie Karras and Kari Borresen, vol. 20 of “Encyclopedia of Women and the Bible,” Jorunn Okland et al., gen. eds. (to be published by Baylor University Press)

“Orthodox Theology of Migration,” co-author Elizabeth Prodromou, in *Migration and Theology in World Christianity*, Elaine Padilla and Peter C. Phan, eds. (editors in discussion with Palgrave; publication expected in summer-fall 2011); to be co-published as a volume of the *Journal of World Christianity*

“An Orthodox Perspective on the *Cambridge Dictionary of Christianity*,” *Journal of World Christianity* (for a special 2011 issue devoted to the *Cambridge Dictionary of Christianity*)

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## Articles in Books and Journals

- “Science and the Cappadocians,” in *Science and Orthodox Christianity*, Daniel Buxhoeveden and Gayle Woloschak, eds. (Aldershot: Ashgate, forthcoming 2011)
- “Ss. Perpetua and Felicitas – Motherhood and Martyrdom,” in *Encountering Women of Faith*, vol. 2, The St. Catherine’s Vision Collection, ed. Kyriaki Karidoyannis FitzGerald (Brookline, Mass.: Holy Cross Orthodox Press, forthcoming 2011)
- “Orthodox Theologies of Women and Ordained Ministry,” in *Thinking through Faith*, ed. Aristotle Papanikolaou and Elizabeth Prodromou (Crestwood, N.Y.: St. Vladimir’s Seminary Press, 2008), 113-158
- “Priestesses or Priests’ Wives: *Presbytera* in Early Christianity,” *St. Vladimir’s Theological Quarterly* 51:2-3 (2007): 321-345
- “Sex/Gender in Gregory of Nyssa’s Eschatology: Irrelevant or Non-Existent”, *Studia Patristica: Papers Presented at the Fourteenth International Conference on Patristic Studies held in Oxford 2003*, vol. 41, ed. Frances Young, Mark Edwards, and P. Parvis (Leuven: Peeters, 2006), 363-368
- “An Orthodox Perspective on Feminist Theology,” pp. 523-532 in *The Encyclopedia of Women and Religion in North America*, ed. Rosemary Skinner Keller and Rosemary Radford Ruether (Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 2006)
- “The Liturgical Functions of Consecrated Women in the Byzantine Church,” *Theological Studies* 66:1 (March 2005): 96-116
- “A Re-evaluation of Marriage, Celibacy, and Irony in Gregory of Nyssa’s *On Virginity*,” *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 13:1 (Spring 2005): 111-121
- “Overcoming Greed: An Eastern Christian Perspective,” *Buddhist-Christian Studies* 24 (2004): 47-53
- “Female Deacons in the Byzantine Church,” *Church History* 73:2 (June 2004): 272-316
- “Beyond Justification: An Orthodox Perspective,” in *Justification and the Future of the Ecumenical Movement*, ed. William G. Rusch (Collegeville, Minn.: Liturgical Press, 2003), 99-131
- “An Eastern Christian Response to Sulak Sivaraksa,” in *Socially Engaged Spirituality: Essays in Honor of Sulak Sivaraksa on His 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday*, ed. David Chappell (Bangkok: Sathirakoses-Nagapradipa Foundation, 2003), 448-460
- “Eschatology,” in *Cambridge Companion to Feminist Theology*, ed. Susan F. Parsons (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002), 243-260
- “Some Ecumenical Principles for Writing and Teaching History,” *Journal of Ecumenical Studies* 35:3-4 (Summer-Fall 1998): 387-399
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## Articles in Books and Journals (cont'd)

- “Women in the Eastern Church: Past, Present and Future,” *Sourozh* 71 (Fall 1998): 33-9
- “The Role of Women,” in *The American Church and the Ecumenical Patriarchate: Governance, Diaspora, Role of Women*, ed. Alice O. Kopan (Minneapolis: Light and Life, 1998), 43-47
- “The Incarnational and Hypostatic Significance of the Maleness of Jesus Christ According to Theodore of Stoudios,” *Studia Patristica: Papers Presented at the Twelfth International Conference on Patristic Studies held in Oxford, 1995*, vol. 32, ed. Elizabeth A. Livingstone (Leuven: Peeters, 1997), 310-314
- “Life of St. Elisabeth the Wonderworker,” in Alice-Mary Talbot, ed., *Holy Women of Byzantium: Ten Saints' Lives in English Translation* (Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection, 1996), 117-135
- “Patristic Views on the Ontology of Gender,” in John Chirban, ed., *Personhood: Orthodox Christianity and the Connection between Body, Mind and Soul* (Bergin and Garvey, 1996), 113-119
- “Moral Character in Basil the Great and Gregory the Theologian,” in Nomikos Michael Vaporis, ed., *Rightly Teaching the Word of Your Truth* (Holy Cross Orthodox Press, 1995), 273-279
- “The Way from Santiago to ...?”, *Mid-Stream: An Ecumenical Journal* 33:1 (Jan. 1994): 68-71
- “Male Domination of Woman in the Writings of Saint John Chrysostom,” *The Greek Orthodox Theological Review* 36:2 (1991): 131-139

## Book Reviews

- Beeley, Christopher. *Gregory of Nazianzus on the Trinity and the Knowledge of God: In Your Light We See Light*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2008. In *Church History* (in progress).
- Liveris, Leonie B. *Ancient Taboos and Gender Prejudice: Challenges for Orthodox Women and the Church*. Aldershot: Ashgate, 2005. In *Logos: A Journal of Eastern Christian Studies* (in progress).
- Cooper, Adam G. *The Body in St Maximus the Confessor: Holy Flesh, Wholly Deified*. Oxford Early Christian Studies. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005. In *Church History* 76:4 (December 2007): 826-828
- St. John Chrysostom. *On Repentance and Almsgiving*. Trans. Gus George Christo. Fathers of the Church, vol. 96. Washington, DC: Catholic U. of America Press 1998. In *Church History* 68:2 (Spring 1999): 425-426
- Dagron, Gilbert, et al. *Évêques, moines et empereurs (610-1054)*. Histoire du christianisme des origines à nos jours, vol. 4. Paris : Desclée de Brouwer, 1993. In *The Greek Orthodox Theological Review* 41:2-3 (1996): 290-292
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## Conference Reports

“A Listeners’ Report,” with Deenabandhu Manchala and Anton C. Vrame, in *The Orthodox Churches in a Pluralistic World*, ed. Emmanuel Clapsis (Geneva; Brookline, Mass.: WCC Publications and Holy Cross Orthodox Press, 2004), 219-22

“Fellowship Affairs: The Conference of 1987,” *Sobornost* 10:1 (1988): 63-65

## Conference Papers and Academic Lectures

“Atonement Soteriology in Irenaeus?”, paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, GA, October 30-November 1, 2010

Review of Daniel Patte, ed., *Cambridge Dictionary of Christianity*, panel paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, GA, October 30-November 1, 2010

“Orthodox Theologies of Women and Ordained Ministry,” lecture presented at the 2010 Huffington Ecumenical Institute symposium on “Women and Church, East and West: A Catholic-Orthodox Conversation,” Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA, March 5-6, 2010

Review of Christopher Beeley, *Gregory of Nazianzus on the Trinity and the Knowledge of God*, panel paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, New Orleans, LA, November 21-24, 2009

“Teaching Orthodoxy in the Academy,” panel paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, New Orleans, LA, November 21-24, 2009

“Gender, Sexuality, and Family Life in the First Christian Centuries,” lecture presented at the annual conference of the Ukrainian Self-Reliance Association, Edmonton, Canada, March 6-8, 2009

“*Imago dei* or Microcosmic Rational Animal? The Protological Anthropology of Gregory of Nyssa,” paper presented at the annual meeting of the North American Patristics Society, Chicago, IL, May 22-24, 2008 (different from the 2006 AAR paper)

“Antiochene Views of the Postlapsarian Loss of the *imago Dei* in Woman,” paper presented at the annual meeting of the Orthodox Theological Society in America, Crestwood, N.Y., June 12-14, 2007; and (in abbreviated form) at the Fifteenth International Conference on Patristic Studies, Oxford, U.K., August 6-10, 2007

“The *Filioque*: Still an Issue?”, panel paper presented at the annual meeting of the Catholic Theological Society of America, Los Angeles, California, June 7-10, 2007

“*Imago Dei* or Microcosmic Rational Animal? The Protological Anthropology of Gregory of Nyssa,” paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Washington, D.C., November 19-22, 2006

“Gender and Theology: A Patristic Perspective,” paper presented at the annual conference of the Orthodox Christian Association of Medicine, Psychology, and Religion, Brookline, Mass., November 2-4, 2006

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### **Conference Papers and Academic Lectures (cont'd)**

- “Menstruation and Ritual Impurity in Alexandria and Antioch,” paper presented at the annual meeting of the North American Patristics Society, Chicago, Illinois, May 25-27, 2006
- “Women in the Byzantine Liturgy,” Annual Ss. Cyril & Methodius Lecture, Byzantine Catholic Seminary of Ss. Cyril and Methodius, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, May 8, 2006
- “Visual Religion in Orthodox Christianity,” presented at the Buddhist-Christian Studies Conference, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, California, June 4-8, 2005
- “Women in the Church,” two mini-courses for the Summer Institute, Patriarch Athenagoras Orthodox Institute (Graduate Theological Union), Berkeley, California, June 16-17, 2004
- “Overcoming Greed: An Eastern Christian Perspective,” paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Buddhist Christian Studies, Atlanta, Georgia, November 21-22, 2003 (held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion)
- “Sexual Differentiation in the Eschatology of Gregory of Nyssa: Irrelevant or Non-Existent?”, paper presented at the Fourteenth International Conference on Patristic Studies, Oxford, U.K., August 18-23, 2003
- “Response to Irvin and Sunquist’s *History of the World Christian Movement*,” paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, November 23-26, 2002
- “Eastern Christian Architecture and Church Decoration from Ancient Times to the Present: A Brief Survey,” lecture with slide presentation, for “Building the Church for 2010: Integrating Tradition, Culture, and the Vision of Vatican II,” annual conference of the Liturgical Institute of the University of St. Mary of the Lake, Mundelein, Illinois, October 31-November 1, 2002
- “A Re-evaluation of Marriage, Celibacy, and Irony in Gregory of Nyssa’s *De Virginitate*,” paper presented at the annual meeting of the North American Patristics Society, Loyola University, Chicago, Illinois, May 23-25, 2002
- “An Orthodox Perspective on the *Joint Declaration*,” paper presented at the annual meeting of the U.S. Lutheran-Orthodox theological dialogue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, May 22, 2002
- “An Orthodox Christian Response to Judith Simmer-Brown’s ‘Sexuality in Tibetan Buddhist Tantra,’” paper presented at the annual International Buddhist-Christian Theological Encounter, Indianapolis, Indiana, May 9-11, 2002
- “Women at the Altar: Female Deacons in the Byzantine Church,” Annual Byzantine Lecture, Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Saint Louis University, February 21, 2001
- “Beyond Justification: An Orthodox Response,” paper presented at the annual meeting of the North American Academy of Ecumenists, St. Louis, Missouri, September 29-October 1, 2000
- “What Western Christians Can Learn from the Eastern Christian Tradition,” lecture given at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Chicago, Illinois, January 26, 2000
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## **Conference Papers and Academic Lectures (cont'd)**

- “An Eastern Christian Response to Sulak Sivaraksa’s ‘Economic Aspects of Social and Environmental Justice from a Buddhist Perspective,’” paper presented at the annual International Buddhist-Christian Theological Encounter and at the Sixth International Conference of the Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies, Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, Washington, August 3-5, 2000, and August 6-11, 2000, respectively
- “The Historical Attitudes of the Early Church Fathers towards Unity and Diversity in Christendom,” lecture given at the Pacific Southwest District Pastors’ Conference, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, Palm Springs, California, September 27, 1999
- “How the Church Has Used the Ecumenical Councils to Resolve Conflict,” lecture given at the Pacific Southwest District Pastors’ Conference, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, Palm Springs, California, September 27, 1999
- “The Theological Anthropology of Gender: Some Parameters for Debate,” paper presented at the Thirteenth International Conference on Patristic Studies, Oxford, U.K., August 16-21, 1999
- “Lay and Clerical Disobedience: Issues of Church Authority in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America,” paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Orlando, Florida, November 21-24, 1998
- “Chrysostom’s ‘Sexual Politics’ Revisited,” paper presented at the Annual General Meeting of the North American Patristic Society, Chicago, Illinois, May 29-31, 1997
- “Ecumenical Principles for Writing and Teaching History,” paper presented at the annual meeting of the North American Academy of Ecumenists, Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 1996
- “‘Flesh of my Flesh’ -- Greek Patristic Exegeses of the Creation of Eve,” paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Nov 18-21, 1995
- “The Incarnational and Hypostatic Significance of the Maleness of Jesus Christ According to Theodore of Stoudios,” paper presented at the Twelfth International Conference on Patristic Studies, Oxford, U.K., August 1995
- “Patristic Views on the Ontology of Gender,” paper presented at the annual meeting of the Orthodox Christian Association of Medicine, Psychology, and Religion, Hellenic College, Brookline, Massachusetts, October 1993
- “Male Domination of Woman in the Writings of Saint John Chrysostom,” paper presented at the annual Byzantine Studies Conference, Walters Art Gallery, Baltimore, Maryland, October 1990

## **Honors and Awards**

- “Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers and Educators,” 11<sup>th</sup> edition (2007)  
Mellon grant, Saint Louis University, 2000  
“Who’s Who in the East,” 26<sup>th</sup> edition (1997)  
American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) travel grant, 1995  
“Outstanding Young Women of America,” 1982
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## **Ecumenical Activities**

Panel Discussant, Anglican Communion Institute Conference, Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, Dallas, TX, February 6, 2010  
Panelist/Respondent, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, Dallas, January 24, 2008  
U.S. Conference on Faith and Order Consultation Participant, Princeton Seminary, April 2004  
Annual Festival of Faiths & Cultures Speaker, Our Lady of the Snows, Belleville, Illinois, September 13, 2003  
23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Women's Interfaith Conference Panelist, St. Louis, Missouri, April 10, 2003  
Homilist for ecumenical services in Irvine, CA (January 24, 1999); Norwich, CT (January 26, 1997); and Albany, NY (June 9, 1996)  
National Workshop on Christian Unity Panelist, Sacramento, Calif., April 1997  
"Conversation Toward a Common Understanding and Vision of the World Council of Churches" Participant, New York, New York, December 1995  
"Revisioning the Unity We Seek: The Calling of Faith and Order" Participant, NCC Theological Symposium, Atlanta, Georgia, February 1995  
Organizational Meeting Participant, Ecclesiology Consultation, WCC Commission on Faith and Order, Dublin, Ireland, May 1994  
Seminar on the Fifth World Conference on Faith and Order Participant, National Council of Churches in Christ, Waltham, Ma., October 1993  
Fifth World Conference on Faith and Order Participant, World Council of Churches, Santiago de Compostela, Spain, August 1993  
Conference on the Millenium of Russian Christianity Participant, Orthodox Centre of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Chambesy, Switzerland, April 1988

## **Professional Activities and Service**

American Academy of Religion, History of Christianity Section Steering Committee, 2008-  
Orthodox Theological Society in America: Secretary, 2007-2009; Investment Committee, 2000-2006  
Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies Board of Directors, 2002-2006  
Professorship in Greek Studies Advisory Committee, University of Missouri-St. Louis, 2002-2004  
Institute on Religion and World Affairs, Boston University, Orthodoxy and Pluralism consultation, 2003-2004  
International Buddhist-Christian Theological Encounter, 1999-2004  
Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research Board of Directors, 1997-2001  
North American Academy of Ecumenists Executive Board, 1996-2001  
American Academy of Religion, Eastern Orthodox Studies Group Steering Committee, 1993-2000

## **Professional Associations**

American Academy of Religion	North American Academy of Ecumenists
American Society for Church History	North American Patristics Society
Byzantine Studies Association of North America	Orthodox Theological Society in America
LOGOS Orthodox Scholars Forum	Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies

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