

Sharon Betsworth

Saint Paul School of Theology
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Education

- Ph.D. Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, California
Biblical Studies, New Testament
Dissertation: “The Reign of God is of Such as These: A Socio-Literary Analysis of Daughters in the Gospel of Mark” (Mary Ann Tolbert, director)
- Th.M. New Testament, Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, New Jersey
- CPE Asbury Methodist Village, Gaithersburg, Maryland
- M.Div Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington D.C.
- B.A. German, History, Luther College, Decorah, Iowa

Ordination

- 1994 Deacon’s Orders, The United Methodist Church (Iowa Annual Conference)
- 1997 Elder’s Orders, The United Methodist Church (Iowa Annual Conference)

Academic Appointments

- 2022–present Vice-President for Academic Affairs and Dean, and Professor of New Testament
Saint Paul School of Theology, Leawood, Kansas; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
- 2016–2022 Professor of Religion, Oklahoma City University, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
- 2009–2022 Director of the Wimberly School of Religion, Oklahoma City University,
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
- 2009–2022 Affiliate Faculty, Saint Paul School of Theology at Oklahoma City University,
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
- 2010–2016 Associate Professor of Religion (tenure, 2010)
Oklahoma City University, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
- 2007–2010 Assistant Professor of Religion
Oklahoma City University, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Other Professional Work Experience

- 2001–2007 Registrar’s Assistant, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, California
- 1995–2000 Associate Pastor, First United Methodist Church, Mason City, Iowa
- 1994–1995 Christian Education Director & Assistant to the Wesley Foundation Director,
University United Methodist Church, College Park, Maryland
- 1992–1994 Seminary Intern, University United Methodist Church, College Park, Maryland
- 1990–1991 Elementary Teacher, Prescott Community School, Prescott, Iowa
- 1990 Teacher’s Aide, Indianola Community Schools, Indianola, Iowa

Publications

Books

Sharon Betsworth and Julie Faith Parker, ed. *T&T Clark Handbook of Children in the Bible and Biblical World*. London: Bloomsbury/T&T Clark, 2019.

Children in Early Christian Narratives. London: Bloomsbury/T&T Clark, 2015.

The Reign of God is Such as These: A Socio-Literary Analysis of Daughters in the Gospel of Mark. London: T&T Clark, 2010.

Articles and Chapters in Books

“The Marginalization of Children in the Roman World and New Testament,” in *The Routledge Handbook of Marginalization in the Bible*, edited by Joel Baden. Routledge (under contract).

Sharon Betsworth and Julie Faith Parker, “‘Where Have All the Young Girls Gone?’ Discovering the Girls of the Bible through a Childist Analysis of Exodus 2 and Mark 5-7,” *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* 28, no. 2 (2022): 125–141.

“The Child Snatched Away: Reading Revelation Through a Childist Lens,” *Biblical Interpretation* 28 (2020) 658-676.

“Narrative Criticism and Childist Interpretation,” in *Children and Methods: Listening To and Learning From Children in the Biblical World*, edited by Kristine Garroway and John Martens. Leiden: Brill, 2020.

“Daughters in the Gospel of Mark,” and “Children and Parents in the Gospel of Mark,” in Warren Carter, *Mark Wisdom Commentary Series*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2019.

“Children Playing in the Marketplaces,” in *T&T Clark Handbook of Children in the Bible and Biblical World*, edited by Sharon Betsworth and Julie Faith Parker, 245–263. London: Bloomsbury/T&T Clark, 2019.

“Girls and Goddesses: The Gospel of Mark and the Eleusinian Mysteries” in *Children in the Bible and the Ancient World: Comparative and Historical Methods in Reading Ancient Children*, edited by Shawn W. Flynn, 77–93. New York: Routledge, 2019.

“Jesus (and) the Only Child: Jesus, Children, and the Gospel of Luke.” In *Luke-Acts: Texts@Context*, edited by James P. Grimshaw, 9–22. London: Bloomsbury/ T&T Clark, 2018.

“What Child is This? A Contextual Feminist Literary Analysis of the Child in Matthew 2.” In *Matthew: Texts@Context*, edited by Nicole Wilkinson Duran and James P. Grimshaw, 49–64. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2013.

“Arts Integration and Service Learning in Introduction to Biblical Literature.” In *Teaching the Bible in the Undergraduate Liberal Arts Context*, edited by Jane S. Webster and Glenn S. Holland, 91–98. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix, 2012.

“The Child and Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew.” *Journal of Childhood and Religion* 1, no. 4 (June 2010): 1–14. <http://www.childhoodandreligion.com>

Web-based Publications

Commentaries on Acts 1.1-11; Acts 2.14a, 22-32; Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Acts 2: 14a, 42-47. *The Working Preacher*, April/May, 2023. <https://www.workingpreacher.org>.

Commentaries on John 1:1-18; John 1:19-34; Luke 2:1-14; Luke 2:8-10. *The Working Preacher*, December 2021. <https://www.workingpreacher.org>.

“Jesus’ Parables and Children’s Play,” *Bible and Interpretation*. May 2019. <https://bibleinterp.arizona.edu/articles/jesus-parables-and-childrens-play>

“Children in the Gospels,” *Bible and Interpretation*. September 2015. <https://bibleinterp.arizona.edu/articles/2015/09/bet398002>

Dictionary and Encyclopedia Entries

“Daughter, Daughters: II. New Testament.” In *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception* Vol. 6, edited by Dale C. Allison and Hans-Josef Klauck, 184-185. Berlin: DeGruyter, 2014.

“Sosipater.” In *The New Interpreter’s Dictionary of the Bible, S-Z* Vol. 5, edited by Katharine Doob Sakenfeld, 358. Nashville: Abingdon, 2009.

“Graft.” In *The New Interpreter’s Dictionary of the Bible, D-H* Vol. 2, edited by Katharine Doob Sakenfeld, 660. Nashville: Abingdon, 2007.

Book Reviews

Eunyung Lim, *Entering God’s Kingdom (Not) Like a Little Child: Images of the Child in Matthew, 1 Corinthians, and Thomas*. *RBL* 1 (2023). <https://www.sblcentral.org/home/bookDetails/1001015?search=Betsworth,Sharon&type=1>

Dietmar Neufeld, *Mockery and Secretism in the Social World of Mark’s Gospel* and Laura C. Sweat, *The Theological Role of Paradox in the Gospel of Mark*. *Biblical Interpretation*, 23 no. 3 (2015): 467–73.

Peter Yaw Oppong-Kumi, *Matthean Sets of Parables*. *CBQ*, 77 no. 1 (2015): 180–82.

Joel Kennedy, *The Recapitulation of Israel: Use of Israel’s History in Matthew 1:1–4:11*. *CBQ* 73 (2011): 161–62.

Janice Capel Anderson and Stephen Moore, ed. *Mark and Method*, 2nd ed. *Biblical Interpretation* 18 (2010): 264–308.

Thomas R. Hatina, ed. *Biblical Interpretation in Early Christian Gospels* vol. 2 *The Gospel of Matthew*. *CBQ* 71 (2009): 687–88.

Academic Papers and Presentations

“Samson, Jesus, Luke, and Avery: Stephen King’s *The Institute*, Children, and Saviors,” Society of Biblical Literature, Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX November 18-21, 2023.

“Outsiders Within”: The Marginalization of Children in the Roman World and the Gospel of Luke,” Society of Biblical Literature, Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX November 20-23, 2021.

“Stay at Home: Strategies for Safe Service Learning During the Pandemic,” Annual Oklahoma Service Learning Conference, Virtual, April 15-16, 2021.

“The Child Snatched Away: Reading Revelation 12 through a Childist Lens,” Society of Biblical Literature, Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA. November 23-26, 2019.

“Narrative Criticism and Childist Interpretation of the Bible,” Invited Paper, Listening to and Learning From Children in the Biblical World Conference, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA. February 17-18, 2018.

“*Children and Everyday Life in the Roman and Late Antique World*,” Invited Presenter on Book Review Panel, Society of Biblical Literature, Annual Meeting, Boston, MA. November 18-21, 2017.

“Superstars: Biblical Studies and Undergraduate Fine Arts Majors,” Society of Biblical Literature, Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX. November 19-22, 2016.

“Incorporating Service Learning into Interfaith Studies Courses,” Interfaith Studies: Curricular Programs and Core Competencies, Thousand Oaks, CA. March 13-15, 2016.

“*Doule and Paidiske*: Female Servants and Slaves in the Writings of Luke,” Society of Biblical Literature, Southwest Region, Dallas, TX. March 11-13, 2016.

“*Children in Early Christian Narratives*,” Invited Presenter on Book Review Panel, Society of Biblical Literature, Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA. November 21-24, 2015.

“The Children in the Marketplace and the Dead and Dancing Daughters,” Society of Biblical Literature, Southwest Region, Dallas, TX. March 13-15, 2015.

“Where Have All the Young Girls Gone? The Infancy Gospel of Thomas and Girls,” Society of Biblical Literature, Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD. November 23-26, 2013.

“Widows and their Orphan Children in the Gospel of Luke,” Society of Biblical Literature, Southwest Region, Dallas, TX. March 8-10, 2013.

“Jesus (and) the Only Child: Jesus, Children, and the Gospel of Luke,” Society of Biblical Literature, Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL. November 17-20, 2012.

“‘The Boy Jesus in the Temple’: Reading Luke 2:41-52 in the Context of the Role of Children in Roman Religion,” Society of Biblical Literature, Southwest Region, Dallas, TX. March 9-11, 2012.

“Students Serving through Teaching: Service Learning in Introduction to Biblical Literature,” co-presented with Lisa Wolfe, Society of Biblical Literature, Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA. November 19-22, 2011.

“Jesus’ Passion Predictions and Children in the Gospel of Mark,” Society of Biblical Literature, Southwest Region, Dallas, TX. March 4-6, 2011.

“Jesus as the Child, the Child as Jesus: Using Mimesis to Understand the Child in Matthew 18:1-5,” Society of Biblical Literature, Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA. November 20-23, 2010.

“What Child Is This? A Literary Analysis of the Child in Matthew 2 and 18:1-5,” Society of Biblical Literature, Southwest Region, Dallas, TX. March 13-14, 2010.

“What Child is This? A Feminist Contextual Analysis of the Child in Matthew 2,” Society of Biblical Literature, Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA. November 21-24, 2009.

“Arts Integration and Service Learning in Introduction to Biblical Literature,” Society of Biblical Literature, Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA. November 21-24, 2009

“Jesus as the Son of God in Mark’s Gospel: Guardian, Protector, Patron,” Society of Biblical Literature, Southwest Region, Dallas, TX. March 7-8, 2009.

“The Reign of God is of Such as These: Children in the Gospel of Mark,” Society of Biblical Literature, Annual Meeting, Boston, MA. November 21-25, 2008.

“The Son of God and the Daughter of Demeter: Echoes of the Mysteries in the Gospel of Mark,” Society of Biblical Literature, Southwest Region, Dallas, TX. March 15-16, 2008.

“The Greek and Jewish ‘Heritage’ of the Daughter of Herodias,” Society of Biblical Literature, Pacific Coast Region, Berkeley, CA. March 24-26, 2007.

“Joy or Jinx: Daughters in the Greco-Roman World,” Society of Biblical Literature, Annual Meeting, Washington D.C. November 18-21, 2006.

“The Literary Strategies at Work in Mark’s Beheading of John the Baptist,” Society of Biblical Literature, Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX. November 19-22, 2004.

“What They Say is Right: The Daughter of Zelophehad in Numbers 27:1-11,” Society of Biblical Literature, Pacific Coast Region, Whittier, CA. March 20-22, 2004.

Sermons, Responses, and Church Related Presentations (Selected engagements)

“The Voice of the Community,” Saint Paul School of Theology Weekly Worship, November 27, 2023

“Women in Leadership Seminar,” Webinar hosted by the United Methodist Church, Regional LEAD Hubs (South Africa and USA), October 13, 2023;

“Women in Leadership: Can We Do More?” Video responses by the United Methodist Church, Regional LEAD Hubs (South Africa and USA), by the United Methodist Church, Regional LEAD Hubs (South Africa and USA), posted November 1, 2023.

“Response,” Installation Convocation as Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Saint Paul School of Theology, August 15, 2023.

“The Dawn from on High Will Break Upon Us,” Saint Paul School of Theology Opening Convocation, August 14, 2022.

Awards, Fellowships, and Recognitions

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| 2019 | Scholarship of Discovery Award, Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, Oklahoma City University |
| 2019 | Petree College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Scholarship Award for <i>Children in the Bible and Biblical World</i> , Oklahoma City University |
| 2009, 2018 | Service Learning Award, Introduction to Biblical Literature (Honors), Introduction to World Religions, Oklahoma City University |
| 2013, 2010 | Recognized by the Student Teachers of OCU’s department of education as an influential General Education professor |
| 2011 | Junior Scholar Research Grant, Southwest Commission on Religious Studies |
| 2011 | Faculty Teaching Academy Fellow, Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, Oklahoma City University |
| 2007 | Priddy Foundation Arts Integration Faculty Fellowship, Oklahoma City University |
| 2007, 2006 | Newhall Teaching Award, Graduate Theological Union |
| 2004–2007 | Dempster Graduate Fellowship, The United Methodist Church |
| 2003 | Teaching Technology Associate, Center for Teaching and Learning, Graduate Theological Union |
| 1994 | Book Award for Competence and Interest in United Methodist History, Wesley Theological Seminary |

Service to Saint Paul School of Theology

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| 2022–Present | Executive Leadership Team |
| 2022–Present | Faculty Council (Chair) |
| 2022–Present | Faculty Personnel and Steering Committee (Ex-Officio) |
| 2022–Present | Student Professional Development Committee (Member) |
| 2022–Present | Academic Assessment Committee (Member) |

2022–Present Curriculum Committee (Member)

Service to Oklahoma City University

2020–2022 University Church Relations communication working group
2019–2022 Petree College of Arts and Sciences Promotion and Tenure committee
2018–2022 Chapel Worship Planning Team
2014–2022 Chairs and Directors Council, Petree College of Arts and Sciences
2013–2022 University Promotion and Tenure Committee
2010–2022 Theta Alpha Kappa, National Honor Society for Religious Studies and Theology, chapter representative
2009–2022 Academic Council
2009–2019 University Church Relations Trustee Committee, faculty representative
2016–2017 Faculty Search Committee, Dean of the Petree College of Arts and Sciences
2015 (Fall) Faculty Senate Executive Committee
2013–2018 Faculty Scholarship Committee
2013–2014 Faculty Search Committee, Honors Program Director, chair
2012–2018 Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning Advisory Board
2010–2011 Faculty Search Committee, Religious Education Professor, chair
2009–2015 Graduate Council
2008–2014 Chapel Worship Planning Team
2008–2012 General Education Committee; chair 2011-2012
2007–2009 Women’s Studies Program, faculty

Service to the Academy

2020–present Society of Biblical Literature, Children in the Biblical World section, steering committee member
2020–2022 Annual Oklahoma Service Learning Conference, Advisory Committee
2020 Reviewer, *Liturgy and Life Study Bible*, Liturgical Press
2016–present Manuscript Reviewer: *Biblical Interpretation, Neotestamentica*.
Book Proposal Reviewer: Oxford University Press, Bloomsbury, SBL Press.
2017–2020 Theta Alpha Kappa Board of Directors, member-at-large
2014–2019 Society of Biblical Literature Children in the Biblical World section, steering committee co-chair

Service to the Community

2010–2016 Project Transformation Board of Directors [Literacy program for children in underserved urban areas; A program of the Oklahoma United Methodist Church in cooperation with AmeriCorps]
Vice-Chair of the Board, 2014-2016

Membership in Organizations

Society of Biblical Literature

Southwest Commission on Religious Studies

Theta Kappa Alpha, National Honor Society for Religious Studies and Theology