

Eleanor Tiplady Higgs

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS & AFFILIATIONS

- 2024–26 **Lecturer in Christianity and Judaism** (part time)
School of Creative Arts, University of Gloucestershire – UK
- 2021–24 **Lecturer in Sociology**
Department of Social and Political Sciences, Brunel University – UK
- 2018–20 **Postdoctoral Research Fellow**
Department of Religious Studies, University of Cape Town – South Africa

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2023 **BA/Leverhulme Small Research Grant** (£8,643.63)
- 2022 **Junior Fellow**, Merian Institute for Advanced Studies in Africa – Ghana
- 2020–21 **Fellow**, Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence – Germany
- 2011–12 **Small grants for field research** Sir Richard Stapley Educational Trust, Sidney Perry Foundation, Gilchrist Educational Trust, Roger and Sarah Bancroft Clark Charitable Trust

EDUCATION

- 2018 PhD Gender Studies, Centre for Gender Studies, SOAS, University of London – UK
- 2009 MSc Global Ethics, Centre for the Study of Global Ethics, University of Birmingham – UK
- 2007 BA (Hons) Philosophy and Theology/Religious Studies, University of Greenwich – UK

TEACHING & RESEARCH INTERESTS

Christianities, coloniality, ‘development’, ethics, feminisms, gender, institutional ethnography, narrative.

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Single-authored monograph

- 2021 *Narrative, Identity and Ethics in Postcolonial Kenya: The Young Women’s Christian Association*. London: Bloomsbury Academic.

Peer-reviewed journal articles (single-authored)

- 2024 ‘The YWCA of the USA “in service for the girls of the world”, 1947-1985.’ *Women’s Studies International Forum*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wsif.2024.102925>
- 2021 ‘Christianity, coloniality, and social change: Everyday ethics of the two YWCAs of South Africa.’ *Religion & Gender*, 11 (1): 39–61.
- 2020 “‘We are Christians’”: The shifting narrative identity of the Young Women’s Christian Association in Kenya.’ *ARIA: Annual Review of Islam in Africa*, 17: 59–63.
- 2019 ‘From “imperial maternalism” to “matricentrism”: Mothering ethics in Christian women’s voluntarism in Kenya.’ *African Journal of Gender & Religion*, 25 (1): 20–44.

- 2015 ‘#JusticeforLiz: Power and privilege in digital transnational women’s rights activism.’ *Feminist Media Studies*, 15 (2): 344–347.

Peer reviewed journal articles (co-authored)

- In review with Tammy V. Wilks. ‘Making memory matter: “Material autochthony” in urban religious communities in Kenya and South Africa.’ *Material Religion*.
- 2022 with Steven A. Kapinde. ‘Global Anglican discourse and women’s ordination in Kenya: The controversy in Kirinyaga, 1979–1992, and its legacy.’ *Journal of Anglican Studies*, 20 (1): 22–39.

Book chapters and encyclopaedia entries

- 2024 ‘The Young Women’s Christian Association in Anglophone Africa.’ In Spear, T. (Ed.) *The Oxford Research Encyclopedia of African History*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press: www.doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190277734.013.1590/
- 2019 ‘Ethics.’ In Gregg, S.E., and Chryssides, G.D. (Eds.) *The Bloomsbury Handbook to Studying Christians*, London: Bloomsbury: 179–182.
- 2017 ‘Postcolonial feminist theologies.’ In Hawthorne, S. M. (Ed.) *Gender: God*. Farmington Hills, MI: Macmillan Reference USA: 79–93.
- 2016 ‘Becoming “multi-racial”: The Young Women’s Christian Association in Kenya, 1955–1965.’ In Glimps, B.J., and Ford, T.N. (Eds.) *Gender and Diversity Issues in Religious-Based Institutions and Organizations*. Hershey, PA: IGI Global: 24–50.

INVITED TALKS

- 2023 ‘Christianity, gender, and bodies in YWCA discourse.’ William & Mary College, US (online).
- 2019 ‘Race, gender, and ethics in “organisational (auto)biography”: Researching the Young Women’s Christian Association.’ Desmond Tutu Centre for Religion and Social Justice, University of Western Cape, South Africa.

RECENT CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Panels Organised

- 2023
- ‘The coloniality of research’ roundtable dialogue. Brunel Research Festival, Brunel University, UK.
- 2019
- ‘Race, religion and publics in South Africa’. Conference on Racism and Religion, University of Uppsala, Sweden.

Paper Presentations

- 2024
- British Association for the Study of Religions (BASR) conference, University of Leeds, UK.
- 2023
- ‘Shaping Body and Spirit: Gender, Religion and Reform in the Colonial Era’ research workshop, Universität der Bundeswehr München, Germany.
 - Memory Studies Association conference, Newcastle University, UK.
 - ‘Democracies in flux: LGBTI+ struggles, feminist politics, and anti-gender contestations.’ SEXDEM, LEGS, & Lectures Féministes conference, Campus Condorcet, Paris, France.

2022

- British Association for the Study of Religions (BASR) conference, Open University, Milton Keynes, UK.

2021

- Christian Left Conference, Centre for Religion and Its Contexts, Emmanuel College, Victoria University, University of Toronto (online), Canada.
- Meeting of the Yale-Edinburgh Group on World Christianity and the History of Mission. New College, University of Edinburgh (online), UK.
- Implicit Religion UK Conference, Bishop Grosseteste University, Lincoln (online), UK.
- African Consortium for Law and Religion Studies annual conference, Nairobi, Kenya.

TEACHING

2024–26

University of Gloucestershire

Undergraduate

Narrative Theology (convener and solo lecturer, 100%)
 Global Religions - Judaism and Christianity sections (co-taught, 40%)
 God, Power, and Politics (co-taught, 33.3%)
 Gender, Culture and Society (co-taught, 50%)
 Dissertation supervision in religion, philosophy, and ethics.

2021–24

Brunel University

Postgraduate

21st Century Media-Bodies

Undergraduate

Bodies and Society
 Making Sense of Culture and Society
 Gender, Sexuality and Feminism
 Dissertation supervision in the areas of feminist sociology and gender studies, social theory, racism and anti-racism, media and communication, and cultural studies.

2012–18

SOAS, University of London

Postgraduate

Gender Theory and the Study of Asia, Africa, and the Middle East

Undergraduate

Philosophies of Interpretation and Understanding
 Comparative Ethics
 Religion and Gender

PUBLIC-FACING SCHOLARSHIP

2023

with Owen Coggins. “Beyond a tick-box exercise”: Navigating ethics and social justice in research - an event report.’ [Global Lives Research Centre blog](#), Brunel University.

2022

‘Travelling with care? Transnational mobility and research during Covid-19.’ [Global Lives Research Centre blog](#), Brunel University.

2020

‘Politics, religion, decolonisation: A response to “Decolonizing religious studies and its layers of complicity”.’ [Religious Studies Project](#).

2018

Reivew of G.L. Heath & D.K. Tarus (Eds.), *Christian Responses to Terrorism: The Kenyan Experience*. [Reading Religion](#).

SERVICE, ADMINISTRATION, & COLLEGIALITY

Professional service

2024–26	Member of management group – International Centre for Biblical Interpretation (ICBI)
2023–24	Lead organiser of ‘Work-in-progress seminar series’ – UK and Ireland Institutional Ethnography Network
2024	Manuscript review – <i>Religion and Gender</i>
2024	Manuscript review – <i>Journal of Religion in Africa</i>
2023–24	Manuscript review – <i>Journal for the Academic Study of Religion</i>
2023	Manuscript review – monograph for <i>James Currey</i>
2019–23	Manuscript review – <i>African Journal of Gender and Religion</i>
2021	Independent Peer Reviewer – South African Department of Higher Education and Training journal evaluation (<i>Agenda</i>)
2020	Manuscript review – <i>Religion Compass</i>
2020	Manuscript review – <i>Agenda</i>

University service

2023–24	Originator and equal co-lead – Religion Research Group
2023	Equal co-applicant/co-organiser – AHRC Techne doctoral training partnership Training and Development Day ‘Navigating ethics and social justice in research’ (31 October–1 November 2023), £945 awarded
2021–24	Active member – Global Lives Research Centre
2021–24	Active member – Brunel LGBTQ+ Staff Network

Departmental service

2022–24	Contributor – PGR Research Methods Training Workshop: ‘Oral sources’, ‘Ethics’
2022–24	Member of marketing working group
2021–24	Open days coordinator
2021–24	Equal co-organiser of departmental ‘Decolonising Coalition’
2022–23	Senior Tutor
2022	Contributor – PhD Conversations: ‘Challenging the normative figure of a PhD researcher’
2022	Module design: ‘Gender and Development’ (undergraduate) and ‘21 st Century Media-Bodies’ (postgraduate)

MEMBERSHIPS

- Advance HE – Fellowship (FHEA) conferred 4th October 2023
- African Studies Association UK
- British Association for the Study of Religion
- Feminist Studies Association
- International Association for the Study of Religion and Gender
- International Centre for Biblical Interpretation
- UK and Ireland Institutional Ethnography Network

Past memberships

African Association for the Study of Religions, Association for the Sociology of Religion, British Sociological Association, Association for Feminist Ethics and Social Theory.