

# Elizabeth G. Currans

## Curriculum Vitae

714P Pray-Harrold  
Eastern Michigan University  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197  
734-487-7707  
ecurrans@emich.edu

---

### Employment

- 2015-current Associate Professor, Department of Women's and Gender Studies, Eastern Michigan University
- 2010-2015 Assistant Professor, Department of Women's and Gender Studies, Eastern Michigan University
- 2008-2010 Visiting Assistant Professor, Women's Studies Program, The College of William and Mary

---

### Education

- 1999-2007 University of California, Santa Barbara, Department of Religious Studies and Women's Studies Program, PhD awarded September 2007, Dissertation: "Performing Gender, Enacting Community: Women, Whiteness and Belief in Contemporary Public Demonstrations"
- 1996-1999 University of Oregon, Folklore and Women's Studies Programs, MA awarded June 1999, Thesis: "Acts of Construction, Negotiation and Performativity: An Exploration of Identity and Belief in Queer Women's Spiritual Narratives."
- 1991-1994 Colorado State University, Department of English and Women's Studies Program, BA awarded December 1994 (Cum Laude)

---

### Areas of Research and Teaching Interest

Contemporary Public Protest; Feminist and Queer Activism; Intersections of Race, Gender and Sexuality; Public Space and Public Cultures; Cultural Production and Performance; Emotions and Affect; Whiteness; Grassroots Movements; Feminist Theory; Queer Studies and Theory

---

### Publications

#### Peer-Reviewed Articles

- "Utopic Mappings: Performing Joy." *Obsidian: Literature & Arts in the African Diaspora*. Forthcoming Fall 2015.
- "Arts-based Research Sharing and Disability Culture Methods: Different Ways of Knowing," with Stephanie Heit and Petra Kuppens. *RiDE: The Journal of Applied Theater and Performance* 20, v 3 (2015) 1-8. Forthcoming Fall 2015.
- "Demonstrating Peace Countertopographically: Women in Black's Solidarity at a Distance." *Women's Studies Quarterly* 42, no. 3-4 (Fall/Winter 2014), 103-118.
- "Negotiating Treacherous Terrain: Disciplinary Power, Security Cultures, and Affective Ties in a Local Anti-War Movement," with Mark Schuller and Tiffany Willoughby-Herard *Social Justice* 38, no. 3 (2012) 60-84.
- "Claiming Deviance and Honoring Community: Creating Resistant Spaces in U.S. Dyke Marches." *Feminist Formations* 24, no. 1, (May 2012) 73-101.
- "Instituting Heteronormative Belief in the Law: The Case of California's Proposition 22." *Culture and Religion*, 5, no. 2, (Spring 2004) 161-178.

### Invited Articles and Chapters

- “Introduction: Lesbian Organizing: Documenting Vital Work.” *Journal of Lesbian Studies*, 20, no. 2 (Spring 2016). In press.
- “Introduction.” *Culture and Religion*, 5, no. 2, (Spring 2004) 139-144, with Melissa M. Wilcox.
- “Gender, Sexuality, and the Balance of Power: Continuity and Divergence in Native American Worldviews.” In David Machacek and Melissa M. Wilcox, eds. *Sexuality and the World Religions*, 31-64. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-Clio, 2003, with Julianne Cordero.

### Edited Volumes

- “Lesbian Organizations and Organizing.” Special issue of the *Journal of Lesbian Studies* 20, no. 2 (Spring 2016). In press.
- “Queer Culture and Religion.” Special issue of *Culture and Religion*, 5, no. 2 (Spring 2004), with Melissa M. Wilcox.

### Encyclopedia Articles

- “Disciplinary Tensions in Studying LGBTQ Populations.” In Abbie Goldberg, ed. *The SAGE Encyclopedia of LGBTQ Studies*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Reference. Forthcoming May 2016.
- “Take Back the Night.” In Mary Zeiss Stange, et al. *Encyclopedia of Women in Today’s World*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Reference, 2011.
- “Sexuality.” In Robert Wuthnow, ed. *Encyclopedia of Politics and Religion*, Second Edition, 816-821. Washington DC: CQ Press, 2006.
- “Gender and Sexuality, Two-Spirits.” In Suzanne J. Crawford and Dennis F. Kelley, eds. *American Indian Religious Traditions: An Encyclopedia*, 325-337. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-Clio, 2005.
- “Mythology: Classical Western.” In Timothy F. Murphy, ed. *The Reader’s Guide to Lesbian and Gay Studies*, 407-408. Chicago: Fitzroy Dearborn Publishers, 2000.
- “Native American Cultures.” In Timothy F. Murphy, ed. *The Reader’s Guide to Lesbian and Gay Studies*, 412-413. Chicago: Fitzroy Dearborn Publishers, 2000.
- “Native American Spirituality.” In Timothy F. Murphy, ed. *The Reader’s Guide to Lesbian and Gay Studies*, 413-414. Chicago: Fitzroy Dearborn Publishers, 2000.

### Book Reviews

- Evelyn Nakano Glenn, *Forced to Care: Coercion and Caregiving in America* and Eileen Boris and Rhacel Parreñas, ed., *Intimate Labors: Cultures, Technologies, and the Politics of Care*. *Labor* 9, no. 1 (Winter 2012).
- Patty Kelly, *Lydia’s Open Door: Inside Mexico’s Most Modern Brothel*. *Labor* 7, no. 3 (Fall 2010).
- R. Marie Griffith, *Born Again Bodies: Flesh and Spirit in American Christianity*. *Nova Religio* 10, no. 3 (February 2007), 125-127.
- Thomas J. Linneman, *Weathering Change: Gays and Lesbians, Christian Conservatives, and Everyday Hostilities*. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 44, no. 1 (March 2005), 117-119.
- Emil Draitsner, *Making War, Not Love: Gender and Sexuality in Russian Humor*. *Journal of American Folklore* 115, no. 455 (Winter 2002), 111-112.
- Andrew Harvey, *The Essential Gay Mystics*. *Nova Religio* 3, no. 2 (April 2000), 180-182.
- David Shallenberger, *Reclaiming the Spirit: Gay Men and Lesbians Come to Terms with Religion*. *Nova Religio* 3, no. 1 (October 1999), 179-180.

### Other Writing

- “Feminist Currents” and “Feminist Reflections,” interactive, co-curated columns for *Frontiers: A Journal of Women’s Studies*: Vol 36, no 1 (2015), Vol 34, no 2 (2013).
- “Same-Sex Marriage Debate: Gay/Lesbian Rights vs. Queer Critiques of Marriage.” In Elizabeth Ribarsky and Michael J. Murphy, ed. *Activities for Teaching Gender and Sexuality in the University Classroom*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Education, 2013.

“Shedding New Light on Reproductive Rights: Loretta Ross Speaks at an Engagement Observing *Roe v. Wade* Anniversary.” *Voices for Just Communities Central Coast: Bi-Annual Newsletter* (Spring/Summer 2008), 6.

### Work Under Review

*Holding Space: Women-Dominated Public Protests in the Early 21<sup>st</sup> Century* (book manuscript, under contract and submitted to University of Illinois Press, peer-reviews received and responded to)

“Encountering Detroit: The Post-Industrial City as Stage,” under review at *Text & Performance Quarterly*

---

### Fellowships, Grants and Associateships

2015	Faculty Research Fellowship, Full Release from Teaching, Fall Semester 2015, Eastern Michigan University
2012	Faculty Research Fellowship, Full Release from Teaching, Fall Semester 2012, Eastern Michigan University
2012	Center of the Study of Equality and Human Rights, Course Release for Scholarly or Creative Work, Eastern Michigan University
2012, 2014	Josephine Nevins Keal Development Fund Fellowship, Eastern Michigan University
2011-2012	Provost’s Office, New Faculty Research Award, Eastern Michigan University
2010, 2011, 2013, 2015	Faculty Travel Award, College of Arts and Sciences, Dean’s Office, Eastern Michigan University
2010	Dean’s Office, Program Development Initiative (for “Curriculum Development for WGST 202: Introduction to Gender and Sexuality Studies”), Eastern Michigan University
2010	Provost’s ABBR Program Development Initiative (to run a faculty seminar to cultivate courses for and design the LGBTQ Studies minor), Eastern Michigan University.
2007	Faculty Senate, UCSB: Non-Senate Faculty Professional Development Grant
Spring 2006	Five Colleges Women’s Studies Research Center: Research Associate
November 2004	College of Letters and Sciences, UCSB: Conference Support Grant (for GenderQueer/ QueerGenders: Conversations among Artists, Activists and Academics conference, February 2005)
April 2004	Interdisciplinary Humanities Center, UCSB: Graduate Collaborative Project Award (for GenderQueer/Queer Genders: Conversations among Artists, Activists and Academics conference, February 2005)
2002, 2004	Humanities and Social Sciences Research Grant, UCSB
2003-2004	Santa Barbara Gay and Lesbian Business Association: Student Scholarship
2003-2004	Walter H. Capps Center for the Study of Ethics, Religion and Public Life: Graduate Student Research Fellowship
2001, 2002	Department of Religious Studies, UCSB: J.F. Rowny Fellowship
2001-2002	Graduate Division, UCSB: Graduate Opportunity Fellowship
1991-1994	Colorado State University: Resident Achievement Award

---

### Presentations

#### Upcoming Presentations

“Present Absences: Images of Deceased Men of Color in Public Demonstrations,” Photographs, Power, and Affect II, National Women’s Studies Association Annual Conference, Milwaukee, WI, November 2015, panel accepted.

## Conference Papers

- “Seduction, Play, and Constraint: Mermaids in U.S. Contemporary Culture,” Sirens Roundtable, BABEL Working Group annual meeting, Santa Barbara, CA, October 16, 2014.
- “Encountering Detroit: The Post-Industrial City as Stage,” “Affect and the City” working group, Hemispheric Institute of Performance and Politics Encuentro 2013: MANIFEST! Choreographing Social Movements in the Americas, Montreal, Quebec, June 26, 2014.
- “Bridging Feminist Pedagogy and Participatory Democracy: A Consideration of Organizational Dynamics in Occupy Ypsilanti,” National Women’s Studies Association Conference, Cincinnati, Ohio, November 2013.
- “Present Absences: Images of Lost Loved Ones in Public Demonstrations,” Performance Studies International, Stanford, CA, June 30, 2013
- “Mediating Critique and Dialogue: Online Conversations and Local Organizing,” Mediating Public Spheres: Genealogies of Feminist Knowledge in the Digital Age, Five Colleges Women’s Studies Research Center, Mt. Holyoke College, April 3, 2013.
- “Queering Normative Femininities?: CODEPINK’s Disruptive Deployments,” National Women’s Studies Association Annual Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, November 11, 2011.
- “Let’s Do the SlutWalk!: Claiming Space for Nonheteronormative Femininities,” Contingent Belongings: Reflections on Race, Space, and the State, University of Minnesota, September 16, 2011.
- “Engendering Publics: Women’s Public Demonstrations in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century U.S.,” Michigan Women’s Studies Association Conference, Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI, March 26, 2011.
- “Gendering National Political Spaces: Explicitly Gendered Marches on Washington in the early 21st Century US,” National Women’s Studies Association Annual Conference, Denver, Colorado, November 14, 2010.
- “Between Creativity and Conformity: Citizenship and Space in Santa Barbara’s Anti-War Movement,” special session The Politics of Place and the Ethics of Engagement, Society for Applied Anthropology, Sante Fe, New Mexico, March 20, 2009, with Mark Schuller and Tiffany Willoughby-Herard.
- “Representing the World?: The Transnational Context for US Women’s Anti-War Protests,” American Studies Association Annual Conference, Oakland, California, October 12, 2006.
- “Silent Witnessing: Performing Anti-Imperialist Womanhood,” Performance Studies International, London, UK, June 15, 2006.
- “My Femme Manifesto: A Letter to a Baby Dyke.” GenderQueer/QueerGenders: Conversations among Artists, Activists, and Academics, University of California, Santa Barbara, February 12, 2005.
- “Belief and the Law: The Case of California’s 2000 Primary Election.” American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, November 23, 2003.
- “Embodiment of Belief: Symbolic Struggle in the San Francisco Dyke March.” American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, Toronto, Ontario, November 2002.
- “Heteronormative Belief and the Law: The Case of California’s Proposition 22.” Queer Visions in the Americas, UCSB, May 25, 2002.
- “Transgression, Sacrality, and Political Embodiment: The Relationship Between Sacrilege and Queer Political Activism.” American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, Denver, Colorado, November 19, 2001.
- “Narratives of Gendered and Religious Identity.” Feminism Unbound: A Graduate Student Conference, University of Oregon, May 11, 2001.
- “Sacrilege and Queer Politics.” The University of California Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered and Allies Annual Conference, UCSB, February 18, 2001.
- “Subversion, Marginality and Performance: The 1998 San Francisco Dyke March.” California Folklore Society Conference, University of California, Berkeley, April 15, 2000.
- “The Dialogic Possibilities of Narrative Research.” Pacific Sociological Association Annual Conference, San Diego, California, March 23, 2000.
- “Creation, Construction and Negotiation: An Exploration of Identity and Belief in Queer Women’s Spiritual Narratives.” American Folklore Society Conference, Memphis, Tennessee, October 23, 1999.

- “Sometimes I Still Pray to Jesus: Negotiation and Belief in the Spiritual Life Story of a Buddhist Lesbian.”  
The Nature of the Literary, University of Oregon, January 31, 1999.
- “*La Madre de Nuestras?*: The Virgin of Guadalupe in the Beliefs of a Neo-Pagan Chicana Lesbian.” American Folklore Society Conference, Portland, Oregon, October 31, 1998.

### **Invited Lectures**

- “SlutWalks: Online Commentary, Dialogue, and Contemporary Feminist Organizing,” Women’s and Gender Studies Colloquium, December 7, 2012, EMU
- “Street Theater,” ENGL 535: Collaboration/Creativity/Poetry, University of Michigan, November 7, 2012.
- “Street Theater,” Teach-In organized by Occupy Ypsilanti and Students for an Ethical and Participatory Education, Ypsilanti, MI, October 21, 2012.
- “Research and Activism,” WGST 608: Master’s Capstone, Eastern Michigan University, September 27, 2011.
- “Reproductive Justice,” Teach-in organized by Occupy Ypsilanti and Students for an Ethical and Participatory Education, EMU campus, April 14, 2012
- “Gender, Sexuality, and Public Protest.” WGST 400: Undergraduate Capstone, Eastern Michigan University, March 10, 2011.
- “Interdisciplinary Research.” WGST 608: Master’s Capstone, Eastern Michigan University, September 29, 2010.
- “Gender, Sexuality, Race, and Space: Conflict and Intra-Movement Surveillance in Santa Barbara’s 21<sup>st</sup> Century Anti-War Movement.” The College of William and Mary, Women’s Studies and Black Studies Brown Bag Discussion, April 17, 2009.
- “Gender, Sex, Art, and Controversy: What are the CORE issues?” Conversations on Reconciliation and Equality discussion series, The College of William and Mary, February 25, 2009.
- “Belief and Emotions: A Tentative Exploration,” Department of Religion brown bag series, The College of William and Mary, February 11, 2009.
- “Interdisciplinary Research,” WMST 375: Feminist Research Methods, The College of William and Mary, February 17, 2009.
- “What’s Masculinity Got to do With It?: Racialized Gender in the 2008 Presidential Election,” Feminist Response to the 2008 Presidential Election panel presentation, The College of William and Mary, October 29, 2008.
- “Overcoming a Politics of Fear.” Keynote, Take Back the Night, UCSB, April 17, 2008.
- “Addressing the Transnational from Home: U.S. Feminist Activists and Academics in a Global World,” Whitman College, Roundtable on “International Gender Justice Activism,” November 13, 2007.
- “Imagining Women: Community, Belief and Whiteness in Gendered Public Protest.” Five Colleges Women’s Studies Research Center, Mt Holyoke College, April 6, 2006.
- “Critical Thinking and Queer Activism.” Fourth Annual Lavender Graduation, UCSB, June 8, 2003.
- “Taking to the Streets: Embodiment of Belief in Gendered Political Protest.” UCSB Women’s Center, May 15, 2003.

### **Workshops Designed and Facilitated**

- “Intersectionality,” Intersections Series, Women’s Resource Center, EMU, September 22, 2014, with Simone Dixon.
- “LGBT Curriculum,” The Equality Leadership Colloquium: Issues in Higher Education,” EMU Campus, May 16, 2014.
- “Intersectional Ecography: Lessons from Feminist Theory and Animal Studies for Exploring Our Human and Much More-Than-Human Communities,” EcoJustice Conference, EMU, March 28, 2014, with Scout Calvert.
- “Street Theater,” Teach-in organized by Occupy Ypsilanti and Students for an Ethical and Participatory Education, EMU campus, October 21, 2012.
- “Reproductive Rights and White Privilege.” National Center for Community and Justice, Santa Barbara, California, December 10, 2005, with Alena Marie, Katie Maynard, and Tara Uliasz.

- “Feminist Dismantling Racism: A Workshop Series By and For White-Identified Feminists Interested in Being Allies to Women of Color.” UCSB Women’s Center, May 10, 17 and 24, 2005, with Simone Chess, Alena Marie, and Tara Uliasz.
- “Feminist Pedagogies in Action: American Studies Meets Women’s Studies.” American Studies Association Annual Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, November 12, 2004, with Sharon Doetsch-Kidder, Johonna McCants, Kimberlee Staking, and Eileen Boris (faculty advisor).
- “Feminist Pedagogy is for Everyone.” UCSB Campus-wide Teaching Assistant Orientation, September 18, 2002 and September 16, 2003.
- “Feminist Pedagogy—What Can it Do For You?.” 2001-2002 Feminist Pedagogy Series, UCSB, April 25, 2002, with Melanie Corn and Nancy Arnold.
- “Implementing Feminist Pedagogy as a Teaching Assistant.” 2001-2002 Feminist Pedagogy Series, UCSB, February 7, 2002, with Melanie Corn and Nancy Arnold.
- “Strategies for a Queer Pedagogy.” 2001-2002 Feminist Pedagogy Series, UCSB, November 8, 2001, with Melanie Corn and Nancy Arnold.
- “Past, Present, and Future: An Intergenerational Dialogue on Women’s Studies and Feminist Pedagogy.” 2001-2002 Feminist Pedagogy Series, UCSB, October 10, 2001, with Melanie Corn and Nancy Arnold.

---

### Awards and Honors

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 2015 | Women’s Resource Center, Eastern Michigan University, Women of Excellence Award                                     |
| 2011 | Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Resource Center, Eastern Michigan University: Trailblazer Award             |
| 2007 | University of California, Santa Barbara: University Service Award   |
| 2005 | Women’s Studies Program, University of California, Santa Barbara: Distinguished Service Award                       |
| 2005 | Resource Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity, University of California, Santa Barbara: Community Service Award   |
| 2004 | Women’s Studies Program, University of California, Santa Barbara: Charlotte Stough Memorial Prize Honorable Mention |
| 1998 | Gay and Lesbian section of the American Folklore Society: Student Paper Prize, Annual Conference, Portland, Oregon  |

---

### Courses Designed and Taught

- Community Internships
  - Feminisms, Transnational Solidarity and Justice
  - Feminist Inquiry
  - Feminist Theory (BA and MA level)
  - Gender and Religion in the U.S.
  - Introduction to Gender and Sexuality
  - Introduction to LGBTQ Studies
  - Introduction to Women’s Studies
  - Feminist Acts and Activism (previously titled Performing Activism, Activist Performances) (BA and MA level)
  - Private Matters: Gender, Sexuality, and Public Space (BA and MA level)
  - Queer Studies
  - Queer Theory (BA and MA level)
  - Race and Queer Theory
  - Transgender Studies
-

## Thesis Committees

### Master's Level

#### Supervisor

Quinn Donnay (WGST, 2012), Lacey Story (WGST, 2012), Laurie Stevens (WGST, 2014), Rachel McCready-Flora (WGST, ongoing), Aneshia Solomon (WGST, ongoing), Mark Doeblner (WGST, ongoing), Amalina Davé (WGST, ongoing), Jennifer Randall (WGST, ongoing)

#### Committee Member

Erika Behrman (WGST, 2012), Nigora Erkaeva (Social Foundations, School of Education, 2012), MaryAnn Kozlowski (WGST, 2012), Nicole Richards (Communication, 2015)

### Undergraduate Honors

#### Supervisor

Meghan Hottel (WST, William & Mary, 2010), Jennifer Rokakis (WGST, 2013)

---

## University and Professional Service

2015-current	Women's and Gender Studies Speaker Series, EMU
2014-current	Committee for Sexual Violence Prevention, EMU
2012-current	General Education Vetting Committee, College of Arts and Sciences, EMU
2012-current	College Committee for Research and Sabbatical Leave, College of Arts and Sciences, EMU
2011-current	McAndless Scholar committee, EMU
2010-current	Curriculum Committee, Department of Women's and Gender Studies, EMU (Committee Chair, 2012-current)
2013-2015	Women's History Month Committee, EMU
2013-2014	Search Committee, Faculty Hire in Critical Race Studies and Interdisciplinary Methods, WGST, EMU
2012-2013	Search Committee, Department Head, WGST, EMU
2011-2012	Search Committee, Interim Department Head, WGST, EMU
2011	Convener and Facilitator, LGBTQ Studies Faculty seminar, EMU
2010, 2011	Presidential Scholar interviewer, Honors College, EMU
2010-2011	Faculty Coordinator, Women's History Month, EMU
2008-2010	Executive Committee Member, Women's Studies Program, The College of William and Mary
2007	Search Committee Member, Campus Ombuds Search, UCSB
2004-2005	Co-Chair and Review Panel Member, GenderQueer/QueerGenders: Conversations among Artists, Activists and Academics conference, UCSB
2001-2002	Organizational Assistant, Panel Moderator and Review Panel Member, Queer Visions in the Americas Conference, UCSB
2001-2002	Lead Teaching Assistant and Facilitator for the Feminist Pedagogy Series, Women's Studies Program, UCSB

---

## Community Service

2015-current	Board of Directors, Ypsilanti Food Co-op (Vice President 2015-2016)
2011-2012	Organizer, Occupy Ypsilanti
2002-2005, 2007	Engineer, Producer and Reporter, News and Public Affairs, KCSB-FM
2005	Media and Publicity Committee, Bread and Roses annual fundraiser, The Fund for Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, California
2003-2004	Precinct Leader, Get Out the Vote, PUEBLO (People United for Economic Justice, Building Leadership through Organizing), Santa Barbara, California

1998-1999 Volunteer, Amigos de los Sobrevivientes, Eugene, Oregon  
1998 Educational Coordinator, Dia de los Muertos exhibit, Maude Kerns Art Center, Eugene, Oregon

---

### **Trainings Completed**

2011 Restorative Justice Training, UM-Dearborn, Dearborn, MI  
2011 Inside-Out Prison Exchange Training, Dearborn, MI  
2009 SONG (Southerners on New Ground), Organizing School, Richmond, VA  
2006 Just Communities Central Coast, Facilitator Training, Santa Barbara, CA

---

### **Professional Affiliations**

American Studies Association  
National Women's Studies Association  
Performance Studies International

---

### **References**

#### **Primary**

Eileen Boris, Professor, Chair, and Hull Chair of Feminist Studies, and Affiliate Professor of History, UCSB  
(boris@femst.ucsb.edu)  
Leisa Meyer, Associate Professor of History and American Studies, The College of William and Mary  
(ldmeyer@wm.edu)  
Petra Kuppers, Professor of English, Performance Studies, and Disability Studies, University of Michigan  
(petra@umich.edu)

#### **Additional**

Dwight F. Reynolds, Professor of Religious Studies and Affiliate Professor of Comparative Literature and Music, Dissertation Committee Chairperson, UCSB (dreynold@religion.ucsb.edu)  
Linda Pritchard, Professor of History and former Department Head of Women's and Gender Studies, Eastern Michigan University (lpritchar1@emich.edu)  
Jennifer Bickham Mendez, Associate Professor of Sociology, The College of William and Mary  
(jbmend@wm.edu)  
Mireille Miller-Young, Associate Professor of Feminist Studies and Affiliate Professor of Black Studies, UCSB (mmilleryoung@femst.ucsb.edu)

---

---