

KATHLEEN M. FISHER

Associate Professor of Theology
Assumption College
500 Salisbury Street
Worcester, MA 01609
(508) 767-7584
kmfisher@assumption.edu

EDUCATION

Ph.D. **BOSTON UNIVERSITY** **1999**
Medieval History and Religion

Dissertation: *The Mystical Animals of Early Irish Christianity: A Study in Narrative and Visual Images*
Major Advisor: Dr. Herbert W. Mason
The University Professors Alumni Merit Award for Best Dissertation

A study of the relationship between Celtic and Christian cultures in early Ireland as revealed in the use of animals in word and image. The narrative animals appearing in the 7th-century *Lives* of Saints Brigit and Columba share particular qualities with their visual counterparts in the 8th-century Insular manuscript, the *Book of Kells*. In both genres, the animals act to bridge, physically and metaphorically, the temporal and spiritual worlds. With their roots in a mystical Celtic imagination, these animals are channels of God's transforming presence for the earliest Irish Christians and suggest a cooperative, even symbiotic, relationship between the religious cultures of the native Celts and the Christian newcomers.

M.T.S. **BOSTON UNIVERSITY** **1982**
Philosophy, Theology, and Ethics

B.A. **UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON (Pennsylvania)** **1980**
Theology & Philosophy, Magna cum Laude

TEACHING COMPETENCE

Primary: Introduction to Theology, The Bible, Approaches in Theology, Early Church History, Medieval Christian History, Spiritual Traditions, Comparative Theology, The Problem of God, Introduction to Peace Studies, Early Irish Religion and History

Secondary: History of Christian Thought, Western Intellectual History (Classical to Medieval World), Introduction to Philosophy, Ethics

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

ASSUMPTION COLLEGE (Worcester, MA)

- Department of Theology (Tenured and Promoted September 2008) 2002- present
- "The Tagaste Project" for First Year Students 2008-10, 2011-13
- College Honors Program 2006-2008

BOSTON UNIVERSITY (Boston, MA)

- The Core Curriculum 2000- 2002
Classical to Medieval World (freshman humanities)
- The University Professors & School of Education Spring 2000
The Vocation of Academic Life (upper-class/graduate course)

EMMANUEL COLLEGE (Boston, MA)

2001

Graduate and Professional Studies Program
Introduction to Religious Studies; Ethics (undergraduate courses)

NOTRE DAME COLLEGE (Manchester, NH)

Summer 1991

Introduction to Philosophy (undergraduate course)

NEW HAMPSHIRE COLLEGE (Portsmouth, NH)

1990-91

Business Ethics (One undergraduate course each semester)

ENDICOTT COLLEGE (Beverly, MA)

1988-90

“*Positive Start*” College Preparation Program

ANNA MARIA COLLEGE (Paxton, MA)

Fall 1985

Medical and Social Ethics (undergraduate course)

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS HIGH SCHOOL (Dover, NH)

1985-87

Religious Studies Department (Full Time)

PHILLIPS EXETER ACADEMY (Exeter, NH)

1984-85

Department of Religious Studies and Philosophy (Full Time)

PUBLICATIONS

ARTICLES

- “Look Before you Leap: Re-considering Contemplative Pedagogy,” in *Teaching Theology and Religion* (forthcoming October 2016).
- “Teaching With ‘The Inner Voice of Love,’” in *Turning the Wheel: Henri Nouwen and Our Search for God*, Orbis Books (November 2007).
- “A New Face of Catholicism,” *Connections*, National Association for Women in Higher Education, Volume 13, Number 1 (Fall 2004) 1-6.
- “Recognizing the Holy,” *Mars Hill Review*, Number 17 (2001), 51-58.
- “‘Curiouser and Curiouser:’ the Virtue of Wonder,” *Journal of Education*, Vol. 182, No. 2 (2000), 29-35.
- “Strangers to the Ways of the World,” Edmonds Prize Publication, Boston University (1995).

- “The Miracles of Mark 4:35-5:43: Their Meaning and Function in the Gospel Framework” (with Urban C. von Wahlde), *Biblical Theology Bulletin*, Vol. XI, No. 1 (January 1981), 13-16.

TEXTBOOK CONTRIBUTIONS

- “Religion in the U.S. Workplace” with Jeanne M. McNett and Pamela D. Sherer, in *Understanding and Managing Diversity*, 5th ed., Carol Harvey and M. June Allard, Pearson Press, August 2011; 6th ed., 2014.
- “The Christian Mind on Corporate Social Responsibility,” with Jeanne M. McNett, in *Management: a Faith-Based Perspective* 1st ed., Michael E. Cafferky, Pearson Press, August 2011.

BOOK REVIEWS

- *Contemplative Learning and Inquiry Across Disciplines*, Oleg Gunnlaugson, Edward W. Sarath, Charles Scott and Heeson Bai, editors. Albany, NY: SUNY Press, 2014. *Reflective Teaching*, Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion (2015). <http://www.wabashcenter.wabash.edu/resources/article.aspx?id=29221>.
- *Lydia: Paul’s Cosmopolitan Hostess*, Richard S. Ascough, Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2009. *CatholicBooksReview.org*, (2009).
- *Finding Happiness: Monastic Steps for a Fulfilling Life*, Abbot Christopher Jamison, Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2008. *CatholicBooksReview.org*, (2009).
- *Liberating the Bible: a Guide for the Curious and Perplexed*, Linda M. MacCammon, Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2008, *CatholicBooksReview.org*, (2008).
- *Encountering Ancient Voices: A Guide to Reading the Old Testament*. Corrine L. Carvalho, Saint Mary’s Press, 2006. *CatholicBooksReview.org* (2007).
- *Seeking the Hidden God*, Jane Kopas, Orbis Books, 2005. *CatholicBooksReview.org*, (2006).
- *Send Me God: The Lives of Ida the Compassionate of Nivelles, Nun of La Ramée, Arnulf, Lay Brothers of Villers, and Abundus, Monk of Villers by Goswin of Bossut*, Martinus Cawley, O.C.S.O., transl., The Pennsylvania State University Press, 2006. *CatholicBooksReview.org*, (2006).
- *Perspectives on the Rule of Saint Benedict*, Aquinata Bockmann, O.S.B., Liturgical Press, 2005. *CatholicBooksReview.org*, (2005).
- *Heart Speaks to Heart: the Salesian Tradition*, Wendy M. Wright, Orbis Books, 2004. *CatholicBooksReview.org*, (2004).
- *Exploring the Bible: a Student’s Introduction*. Book prospectus for McGraw-Hill Higher Education (2004).
- *Women’s Ways of Knowing: The Development of Self, Voice, and Mind*, M. Belenky, et al., HarperCollins, 1986. *CHARACTER*, Boston University CAEC, Vol. I, No. 2 (January 1993), 3-4.

MANUSCRIPT REVIEWS

- “Teaching Elder: Erik H. Erikson.” Reviewed for *Teaching Theology and Religion*, Blackwell Publishing with the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion (May 2015).
- *Christian Spirituality*, Reviewed for Anselm Academic Press (November 2014)
- “Through Solidarity to ‘Fluidarity’: Narrative Reflection in Spiritual and Social Conscience Development.” Reviewed for *Teaching Theology and Religion*, Blackwell Publishing with the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion (May 2011).

SCHOLARLY AND PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- “Making the Familiar Strange,” with Dr. Cathleen K. Stutz, The Teaching Professor Conference, Boston, MA (June 2014).
- “A Theology of Redemption in the *Voyage of St. Brendan*,” 47th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI (May 2012).
- “Celtic Myths in Christian Literature: the Horse-and-Master Narrative” (Paper presentation). “Christianity and Christianization in Early Medieval Ireland,” (Session organizer with Dr. Bryan Carella). 45th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI (May 2010).
- “Now Ask the Beasts to Teach You About the Hand of God,” College Theology Society Annual Conference, South Bend, IN (May 2009).
- “Uncovering Our Mission in Business Education in the Small, Catholic Liberal Arts College,” Business Education at Catholic Universities: The Role of Mission-Driven Business Schools (The 7th International Conference on Catholic Social Thought and Management Education), University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN (June, 2008)
- “The Accidental Exam: Engaging Students until the End,” New England Faculty Development Consortium Conference, Worcester, MA (November 2007)
- “Tweaked, Buffed and Realigned: a Living Learning Program Overhaul,” Panel Participant, National Association of Student Personnel Administrators Region 1 Conference, Portland, ME (November 2006).
- “The Mystical Animals of Early Irish Christianity,” College Theology Society Annual Conference, Denver, CO (June 2006).
- “Teaching with the Inner Voice of Love,” *Turning the Wheel: Henri Nouwen and Our Search for God*, First International Conference, University of St. Michael’s, Toronto, ON (May 2006).
- National Association for Women in Catholic Higher Education, Providence College, Providence, RI (June 2004).
- (1) “The Hospitable Teacher” (Workshop Presentation)

(2) Panel Participant: “Coming Together Across Borders: Women of the Academy, the Community, and the Church”

- “Scholarship and the Irish Monk,” Plymouth State College Medieval Forum, Plymouth, NH (April 2003)
- “Celts, Christians, and Their Sacred Animals,” New England/Maritimes American Academy of Religion Regional Meeting, Providence, RI (April 2000).

INVITED LECTURES

- Assumption Center GIFT Lecture Series, Religious of the Assumption, “Irish Mystical Animals in the *Book of Kells*,” (March 2010).
- “Teaching the Introductory Course in Religious Studies,” Merrimack College (April 2004).
- “The Mystical Animals of Irish Christianity” WISE Program Guest Lecture, in “Sociology of Ritual and Belief,” Assumption College (September 2003).
- “Preparing Future Faculty” Graduate Seminar, School of Nursing, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, (April 2002)
- “Early Irish Monastic Life,” *Introduction to the History of Ireland* course, Boston University (January 2002).
- “St. Columba and the Irish Monastic Legacy,” *Introduction to the History of Ireland* course Boston University (February 2000).
- “Medieval Monks and Saints,” *Comparative Medieval Studies* course, Boston University (October 1999).
- “Early Medieval Monasticism and the Book of Kells,” The Waring School, Beverly, MA (October 1999).
- “Brigit, Columba, and the Book of Kells: Mystical Animal Images in Early Irish Christianity,” *Worship and the Arts Symposium*, Boston Theological Institute, Cambridge, MA (September 1999).
- “Early Celtic Monastic Foundations and Saints,” *Introduction to the History of Ireland* course, Boston University (February 1999).

INVITED SEMINARS

- “Women and Theology: Transforming the Faith of Our Fathers,” Summer Faculty Development Seminar, Providence College Women’s Studies Program (May-June 2005).
- Associate Scholar, *The Center for the Advancement of Ethics and Character*, Boston University School of Education, Summer Teachers’ Academies (2001-present).

- "Lessons in Friendship: Aristotle in *Charlotte's Web*," University of South Carolina at Beaufort, SC (June 2007).
- "Siddhartha's Struggle to Love," Annual Summer Institute, National Center for Community of Caring at The University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT (August 2006).
- "The Examined and Unexamined Life," Tyngsboro, MA (August 2005)
- "Tell Me a Story: The Power of Narrative," University of South Carolina at Salkahatchie and Coker College, SC (June 2005).
- "Father Knows Best? Family Values and the Greeks," University of South Carolina at Salkahatchie, SC (June 2004).
- "No Place But Here," University of South Carolina at Salkahatchie, SC (June 2003).
- "The Company We Keep," University of South Carolina at Salkahatchie, Coker College and Wofford College, SC (June 2002).
- "The Call of Teaching," Wofford College, SC (June 2001).
- Academy Scholars' Forum (April 2001).

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Course Innovation Academy, Assumption College Center for Teaching Excellence	2016-2017
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Faculty Development Course Reduction Grant for Research	2015-2017
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WABASH CENTER FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING IN THEOLOGY AND RELIGION "Writing the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Colloquy"	2014-2015
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Faculty Development Grant: SOPHIA Program Course Development: "Spiritual Seekers and Teachers" (Comparative Theology)	Summer 2013
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AMERICAN ACADEMY OF RELIGION Luce Summer Seminars in Theologies of Religious Pluralism and Comparative Theology	2012-2013
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ASSUMPTION COLLEGE Sabbatical	Spring 2011
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WABASH CENTER FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING IN THEOLOGY AND RELIGION "Teaching and Learning Colloquy on Religious Commitments in the Undergraduate Classroom"	2010-11
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"Assessing Students' Moral and Spiritual Growth in Liberal Arts Colleges" Teagle Foundation <u>Implementation</u> Grant in Assessment to Holy Cross College and Partner Institutions (Assumption College, St. Anselm's College), \$297,441	June 2008-May 2010
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“Assessing Students’ Moral and Spiritual Growth in Liberal Arts Colleges”

Teagle Foundation Planning Grant in Assessment to Holy Cross College and Partner Institutions (Assumption College, St. Anselm’s College), \$22,500

June 2007-June 2008

Faculty Development Grant: “Spiritual Paths”

Course Development and Book Proposal

2006-07

BOSTON UNIVERSITY

- The National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Distinguished Faculty Member 2002
- The University Professors Post-Doctoral Teaching Fellowship 1999-2000
- The University Professors Alumni Merit Prize for Best Dissertation 1999
- Elizabeth Newman Prize (Scholarship) 1998
- The University Professors Scholarship 1996-99
- Andrew W. Mellon Scholarship 1995-96
- Edmonds Prize for Best Graduate Paper 1995

UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON

- Departmental Award for Excellence in Theology 1980
- Theta Alpha Kappa Theological Honor Society 1980
- Alpha Sigma Nu Jesuit National Honor Society 1980
- Who’s Who Among American College Students 1979
- Presidential Scholarships 1976-80

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- American Academy of Religion
 - Member, Steering Committee: *Teaching Religion Program Unit* 2015-
- Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality
- Association for Contemplative Mind in Higher Education
- College Theology Society

COLLEGE SERVICE

ASSUMPTION COLLEGE

College Standing Committees

- Representative Faculty Senate 2004-06, 2016-
- Advisory Board, Center for Teaching Excellence 2015-
- Honors Program Council 2006-2010
- Senate Committee on General Education (SCOGES) 2004-10
- Evaluation Committee (substitute for one promotion case) 2009
- Senate Committee for Writing Emphasis 2004-06
- College Conduct Board 2003-05

Task Forces

- SOPHIA Committee on the Sophomore Year 2011
- Assessment Committee 2009-10
- First-Year Seminar Task Force August 2005
- Honors Program Task Force June 2005
- Strategic Planning Committee, Task Force on Catholic Identity 2003-04

- Athletics Task Force Review Committee 2002-03
- Campus Ministry
- Annual “Spare Change” Student Retreat
- “Social Justice in the Catholic Church” February 2005-2008
- Dinner and Discussion Series Spring 2006, Spring 2007
- Lunchtime Bible Study for Staff Fall 2006
- “How Can I Find God?” Discussion Series: *The DaVinci Code* July 2006

Search Committees

- Theology 2004-05, 2005-06, 2008-09 (Committee Chair), 2015-16
- Campus Ministry 2007, 2008
- English 2006-07
- Business Studies 2005-06, 2006-07
- Philosophy 2003-04

Other

- Program Review, Dept. of Theology 2013-14
- Representative to Faculty Development Committee of the
Colleges of Worcester Consortium 2007-2013
- New Faculty Orientation 2003, 2007-08, 2009
- Presidential Inauguration Committee 2007
- Living/Learning Center Faculty Mentor 2006-2008
- “Women in the Church” Annual Lecture Committee 2005-2007
- New Student Orientation 2003, 2004, 2006-2008, 2015

RECENT COMMUNITY SERVICE

NOTRE DAME HEALTH CARE CENTER (Worcester, MA)

Member, Board of Directors 2008-present

KAIROS SPIRITUAL LIFE CENTER, ALL SAINTS CHURCH (Worcester, MA)

Leadership Team 2009-2012

OTHER

Administrative Experience

BOSTON UNIVERSITY

Grants and Office Administrator

(College of Arts and Sciences, Chemistry Department)

1994-97

Grant and Program Coordinator

(School of Education, Center for the Advancement of Ethics and Character)

1991-94

ENDICOTT COLLEGE

Assistant Registrar; Academic Counselor

1988-90

Residence Director

1982-84