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**MARIA GWYN MCDOWELL**

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**EDUCATION**

- PhD      Theological Ethics, December 2008 (Expected; Dissertation defense, August 2008)  
Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts  
Dissertation: *Metaphorical Virtues and enGendered Presbyters: The Ordination of Women in the Eastern Orthodox Church*  
Director: Dr. Francine F. Cardman, Weston Jesuit School of Theology  
Readers: Dr. Lisa Sowle Cahill, Boston College  
Dr. Aristotle Papanikolau, Fordham University  
Dr. John Behr, St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary
- MDiv     Theology, 1999  
Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California
- BA        Religion, 1994  
Pitzer College, Claremont, California

**AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

- University Fellowship, Boston College, 2002-2005  
James F. and Barbara Beré Merit Scholarship, Fuller Theological Seminary, 1996-1999  
Lowell W. Berry Fellowship, Fuller Theological Seminary, 1995  
Katie Lawson Memorial Award, Pitzer College, 1993

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

- Teaching Assistant, Boston College  
*Ethics, Religion, and International Politics*, 2005; Dr. David Hollenbach, S.J., instructor  
The Religious Quest: Comparative Perspectives I and II (Judaism and Christianity), 2003-2004; Dr. Ruth Langer, instructor  
Teaching Assistant, Fuller Theological Seminary  
*Homiletics*, 1998-1999; Dr. Marguerite Shuster, instructor

**TEACHING AREAS**

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| <u>Primary Areas:</u> Theological Ethics | <u>Secondary Areas:</u> Systematic Theology |
| Catholic Social Teaching                 | Historical Theology                         |
| Eastern Orthodox Ethics                  | Theological Anthropology                    |
| Feminist Ethics                          | Liberation Theologies                       |
| Political Philosophy/Theology            |   |

## PRESENTATIONS AND LECTURES

“Orthodox Human Rights?” Panel presentation: “‘American’ Orthodox Ethics in Western Public Life: Human Rights, Reconciliation, and War.” Society of Christian Ethics Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, January 2009.

“A Future Paradigm: Women Priests,” Conference: Women in Orthodoxy: Past Roles -- Future Paradigms, The Sophia Institute, Union Seminary, New York City, December 2008.

“Gender and Priesthood in Gregory of Nazianzus,” Orthodox Theological Society in America Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, June 2008.

“Seeing is Becoming: ‘Icon’ and Ethics,” Annual American Academy of Religion Meeting, Eastern Orthodox Studies Section, San Diego, CA, November 2007

“Christian Interpretations of Exodus 3: The Burning Bush,” Guest Lecturer for *Religious Quest*, Boston College, 2006. Assignment and images available online at: <http://mariagwyn.com/home/lectures/burning-bush>

“Tradition, Change, and the Life of the Faithful in Fr. Dumitru Staniloae,” Annual American Academy of Religion Meeting, Eastern Orthodox Studies Section, Philadelphia, PA, November 2005

“Justice as Asceticism,” St. Mary Orthodox Church Lenten Lecture Series, Cambridge, MA, March, 2004. Available online at: <http://mariagwyn.com/home/lectures/justice-asceticism>

“Ambiguity and Mystery: The ‘More’ of God,” St. Mary Orthodox Church Lenten Lecture Series, Cambridge, MA, March, 2003. Available online at: <http://mariagwyn.com/home/lectures/ambiguity-mystery>

## PUBLICATIONS

The Blackwell-Wiley Encyclopedia of Eastern Orthodox Christianity, Standard articles: “Sexual Ethics,” “Deaconess,” “Communion of the Saints”; Notations: “Virgins,” “Widows,” “Mystery,” “Nicholas the Wonderworker”; Short notices: “Archdeacon,” “Protodeacon,” “Elder,” “Catechumen,” “Iconostasis,” “Pantocrator Icon,” “Pentecost,” “Metanie,” Forthcoming, 2010.

*Variations on a Theme by Mary Shelley*. Co-authored with Mark O’Connor, Director of the Honors Program, Boston College, 2007. Description available online at: <http://bc.edu/offices/instruction/eteaching/portfolio/shelley.htm> (If you would like to visit the live, password-protected site, please contact me directly.)

“The Newness of the Spirit: the Ordination of Men and Women,” *The Word: a publication of the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese*, May 2004, pp. 9-11. (Not peer reviewed). Available online at: <http://www.stnina.org/journal/onl/feat/mgm-newness>

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

My primary interest is in developing an Orthodox theological ethic that addresses modern issues in contemporary theological language and concepts. I am particularly interested in the possible intersections of liberation theologies and Orthodox theology, especially around issues of gender, economics, and politics. This entails a theological ethic that allows for development and change while remaining faithful to “Tradition.”

My current research focuses on the development of priestly metaphors within Orthodoxy as embodiments of “virtuous relations,” and its ramifications for gender and ordination. This research involves analysis of patristic texts and twentieth-century theologians and philosophers, within and

without the Orthodox tradition. Given the use of metaphors to describe virtues and practices appropriate to the function of priesthood, I use contemporary rhetoric and gender theory to challenge the “orthodox” assumption that such metaphors are only male.

### **PROFESSIONAL TRAINING/RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE**

*Instructional Design Resident*, a Davis Grant–funded position, co-administered by Instructional Design and eTeaching Services and the Honors Program, Boston College, Jan. 2006–May 2007

*Graduate Web Assistant*, Instructional Design and eTeaching Services, Boston College, Sep. 2004–Dec. 2005

### **LANGUAGES**

Spanish, intermediate reading and speaking skills

French, intermediate reading and basic speaking skills

German, basic reading skills

Biblical Greek, basic reading skills

### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Society of Christian Ethics

Orthodox Theological Society of America

American Academy of Religion

### **SELECTED SERVICE AND EXPERIENCE**

Editorial Board, *The St. Nina Quarterly*, 2007

Newsletter Editor, Orthodox Theological Society of America, 2007

Web Editor, *The St. Nina Quarterly*, 2005–present

### **REFERENCES**

#### **Dr. Francine Cardman** (Dissertation Director)

Associate Professor of Historical Theology  
and Church History  
Weston Jesuit School of Theology  
3 Phillips Place  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
617-492-1960  
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#### **Dr. David Hollenbach, S.J.**

University Chair in Human Rights and  
International Justice  
Boston College Theology Department  
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#### **Dr. Ruth Langer**

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#### **Dr. Mark O'Connor**

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Dossier and Recommendations are available upon request through [interfolio.com](http://interfolio.com).