

Sharon Betsworth

Saint Paul School of Theology
13720 Roe Avenue
Building C
Leawood, KS 66224
Sharon.Betsworth@spst.edu

Education

- 2007 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)
- 2001 Th.M. (New Testament), Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, New Jersey
- 1995 Clinical Pastoral Education, Asbury Methodist Village, Gaithersburg, Maryland
- 1994 M.Div., *summa cum laude*, Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington D.C.
- 1989 Elementary Education Certification, Simpson College, Indianola, Iowa
- 1988 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 of 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 (WSOR), Oklahoma City
University, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
- 2009–2022 Adjunct Faculty, Saint Paul School of Theology at Oklahoma City University,
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
- 2010–2016 Associate Professor of Religion (tenured, 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

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* (forthcoming).

“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).

“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

The Working Preacher, Commentaries on John 1:1-18; John 1:19-34; Luke 2:1-14; Luke 2:8-10
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.

“Sospater.” 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

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

“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.

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 Oklahoma City University

- 2020–present University Church Relations communication working group
- 2019–present Petree College of Arts and Sciences Promotion and Tenure committee
- 2018–present Chapel Worship Planning Team
- 2014–present Chairs and Directors Council, Petree College of Arts and Sciences
- 2013–present University Promotion and Tenure Committee
- 2010–present Theta Alpha Kappa, National Honor Society for Religious Studies and Theology, chapter representative
- 2009–present 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.
- 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