

Megan R. Visser

www.meganruthvisser.com

EDUCATION

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| Ph.D. | Sociology, University of California, San Francisco
Dissertation: “Religious/Spiritual Experiences of Women of Color with Heart Disease”
Committee: Howard Pinderhughes (Chair), Janet K. Shim, Catherine Chesla | expected June 2022 |
| M.A. | Ethics & Social Theory, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA
Thesis: “‘The Story Can Be Told Another Way’: The Contributions of Womanist Ethics to the Principle of Respect for Autonomy in Bioethics”
Advisor: Gabriella Lettini | May 2009 |
| B.A. | Sociology/Society & Health, Simmons University, Boston, MA
Thesis: “Kinship, Faith and Empowerment: The Experiences of Organizers Working with Central American and Central American (Im)migrant Communities”
Thesis Advisor: Valerie Leiter, Ph.D. | May 2006 |

ADDITIONAL EDUCATION

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| Clinical Internship | Level I, Clinical Pastoral Education
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA
Department of Spiritual Care | 2017 |
| Certificate | Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA
Women’s Studies in Religion | 2011 |
| PhD Student | Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA
Ethics and Social Theory | 2009-2011 |
| Certificate | Kennedy Institute of Ethics, Georgetown University
Intensive Bioethics Course 33 | 2007 |

PUBLICATIONS

Visser M. “Holding it together”: how COVID-19 changed religious and spiritual practices for Women of Color with heart disease. (Under Review).

McCune E, **Visser M**, and Bamberger, J. Goals and expectations for end-of-life care for people living in permanent supportive housing: a qualitative study. (Under Review).

Dowdell,* M. (2019). Not the Last to Need Saving. In Susan Frederick-Gray (Ed.), *The Unitarian Universalist Pocket Guide*. Boston, MA: Skinner House Books. (Book Chapter).

* Name changed to Visser from Dowdell in 2019.

Dowdell,* M. (2017). Not the Last to Need Saving. In Meg Riley (Ed.), *Testimony*. Boston, MA: Skinner House Books. (Book Chapter).

Dowdell, M. (2013). Adverse Birth Outcomes, 'Bad Fathers,' and Disciplining Risk: A Place for a Feminist Voice in Bioethics. *Thinking Gender Papers, UCLA Center for the Study of Women*.

Baron, E, Cullinan, J, **Dowdell, M**, Fontneau, P, Garner, L, Harrison, B, and Kratochvil, N. (2013). *Who's In Charge Here? The Complex Relationship between Ministry and Authority*. Boston, MA: Unitarian Universalist Association.

PRESENTATIONS

Scientific Presentations

Visser, M. "*Just give me the strength*": *Women of Color with heart disease search for comfort and care from religion/spirituality*. Submitted Presentation, American Academic of Religion Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, November 19-22, 2022.

Visser, M. "*Holding it together*": *how the 2021 COVID-19 pandemic changed religious and spiritual coping resources for Women of Color with heart disease*. Submitted Presentation, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting Los Angeles, CA, August 5-9, 2022.

Visser, M and McCune, E. *Expanding knowledge of end-of-life care in permanent supportive housing*, Accepted Workshop, Housing First Annual Conference, Seattle, WA, April 14-16, 2022.

McCune, E and **Visser, M.** *Goals and expectations for end-of-life care for people living in permanent supportive housing: a qualitative study*, Submitted Presentation, Society of General Internal Medicine Annual Meeting, 2022.

McCune, E, **Visser, M**, Kinderman, A, and Bamberger, J. *Expectations and Desires for End-of-Life Care in Permanent Supportive Housing: A Qualitative Analysis*, Poster, Summer Explore Symposium, School of Medicine, University of California San Francisco, November 2020.

Dowdell,* M. 'Flesh-and-Blood' in New Bioethics: Moral Experience, Risk, and Case 162: The Threat of Hemophilia (1974), Presentation. *American Sociological Association Annual Meeting*, San Francisco, CA, 2014.

Dowdell, M. *Adverse Birth Outcomes, 'Bad Fathers,' and Disciplining Risk: A Place for a Feminist Voice in Bioethics*, Plenary Finalist, Thinking Gender Conference, UCLA Center for the Study of Women, University of California Los Angeles, CA, 2013.

Dowdell, M. *Playing with Cells in the Dark: Writing/ Reading The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks as a Site of Memory*, Presentation, Pacific Sociological Association, San Diego, CA, 2012. Presented in Absentia.

Dowdell, M. *And What About the Doctors?: The Search for Human Dignity in the Clinical Encounter with Black Pregnant Women*, Presentation, American Academy of Religion, San Francisco, CA, 2011.

Dowdell, M. *Respect for the Human Dignity of Black Motherhood*, Presentation, Eastern Society for Women in Philosophy, American Philosophical Association, Washington, D.C., 2011.

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Dowdell,* M. *“The Story Can Be Told Another Way”*: The Contributions of Womanist Ethics to the Principle of Respect for Autonomy in Bioethics, Presentation, American Academy of Religion – Western Region, Whittier College, Whittier, CA, March, 2011.

Dowdell, M. *How Doctors View Women of Color as Patients: Missing Histories and a Feminist Approach to Bioethics*, Presentation, Women’s Studies in Religion Conference, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA, March, 2010.

Clinical and Community Presentations

Takahashi, L., **Visser, M.**, Carvill-Ziemer, E., Wolfe, S.J., and Stevens, E. *Trauma and the Spirit*. General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association, 2021.

Dowdell, M. *Understanding and Reading Research 101*, Clinical Pastoral Education Program Didactic Presentation, Department of Spiritual Care Services, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, November 2018.

Dowdell, M. *Research Literacy for Chaplains*, Clinical Pastoral Education Program Didactic Presentation, Department of Spiritual Care Services, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, October 2017.

Dowdell, M. *A Christian Ethical Perspective on Federal Hate Crime Statistics (2011)*, Invited Lecture, Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies in Ministry, Berkeley, CA. (Declined).

Dowdell, M. *Keynote Lecture*, Allies for Racial Equity, Unitarian Universalist Conference, Fort Worth, TX, 2012.

Dowdell, M. *A Commissioner’s Reflections on Evil, Conscience, War and Freedom*, Presentation, Bay Area Truth Commission on Conscience in War, May 3, 2010.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT EXPERIENCE

Graduate Student Researcher	Personal genomics researcher database. I helped to organize, locate and summarize records and coordinated with other research staff. Based at Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, University of California, San Francisco. PI: Catherine Bliss, Ph.D.	2015
Student Member	Working group developing a white paper on the social and scientific impact of precision genomic medicine interventions targeted by race/ethnicity or gender. Based in Center for Transdisciplinary ELSI Research in Translational Genomics, UCSF, UC Hastings School of Law, and Kaiser Permanente Northern California. Co-PI: Barbara Koenig, PhD.	2013-2015
Graduate Student Researcher	Quantitative research project of survey data on older tobacco smokers and lung cancer screening. I performed chi-square and t-tests to identify differences between current and former smokers	2014

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	and worked with PI to conduct binary logistic regression analysis to predict screening for lung cancer based on concerns and beliefs about lung cancer risk. Based in Department of Physiological Nursing, University of California San Francisco. PI: Janine Cataldo, RN, PhD, FAAN	
Graduate Student Researcher	Multiple research projects related to tobacco control research: (1) I revised an NIH grant application for mixed methods research on tobacco use, perceptions, and marketing of e-cigarettes in older smokers. (2) I prepared IRB materials, revisions to mobile health game content, and research procedure materials for a feasibility/usability study of a mobile health game intervention to support assertive communication of lung cancer patients in virtual clinic visits. Based in Department of Physiological Nursing, University of California San Francisco. PI: Janine Cataldo, RN, PhD, FAAN	2014
Graduate Student Researcher	EngageUC: Engaging University of California Stakeholders for Biorepository Research. I was a research team member implementing a deliberative community engagement strategy. Multi-institution team brought together a demographically and linguistically diverse sample of community stakeholders in Los Angeles and San Francisco to provide input on procedures for informed consent and the return of results in genomic research to individuals and communities. I worked with project staff and mentor to develop community engagement agenda and briefing book on biobanking at University of California, conducted data collection, analyzed preliminary data and drafted research reports. (UCSF-CTSI Grant Number UL1 TR000004-07S2). Program Directors: Sarah Dry (UCLA), Elizabeth Boyd (UCSF), and Daniel Dohan (UCSF). Co-PI: Barbara Koenig, Ph.D (primary mentor).	2013
Co-Principal Investigator	Emotions and the Experiences of Front Desk Personnel at Clinics that Provide Abortions. Collected and analyzed data for my interpretive phenomenology research project in the advanced qualitative methods courses in the Sociology PhD Program at UCSF. PI: Howard Pinderhughes, Ph.D.	2012-2013
Graduate Student Researcher	Measures of Women's Empowerment. Repository for global health researchers. Center of Expertise in Women's Health & Empowerment, UCSF Global Health Institute. PI: Shari Dworkin, Ph.D.	2012-2013

Research Assistant	Race as a Risk Factor. I performed literature review and summary of clinical and social scientific research studies that asserts the use of race as a risk factor for diseases. University of California Hastings School of Law. PI: Osagie Obasogie, JD, Ph.D.	2011-2012
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Contract Minister (part-time)	Unitarian Universalists of Santa Clarita Valley	2019-present
Student Editor	University of California, San Francisco School of Nursing Student Editor Services	2014-present
Assistant Professor	Starr King School for the Ministry, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA	2018-2020
Visiting Assistant Professor	Starr King School for the Ministry, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA	2014-2018
Adjunct Professor	Starr King School for the Ministry, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA	2010-2014
Administrative Assistant	University of California, San Francisco Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences	2011-2013
Project Assistant	SF Refresh and Growing Home Project Homeless Connect/SF Department of Public Health San Francisco, CA	2011
Research Assistant	InPartner Consulting, LLC (Randall Miller, Ph.D.) Berkeley, CA	2010-2011
Community Organizer	Voices for Healthcare Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of CA	2009
Business Specialist	Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Boston, MA Emergency Department	2004-2006
Program Coordinator	Boston Alliance of LGBTQ Youth (BAGLY) & AIDS Action Committee of MA, Boston, MA Mpowerment HIV Prevention Program	2003-2004

TEACHING

Graduate Theological Union (Graduate)

Instructor	Seminary 101: Group Learning for Religious Leaders	Summer 2021
Instructor	Seminary 101: Group Learning for Religious Leaders	Summer 2020
Instructor	Evidence-Based Spiritual Care	Spring 2020
Instructor	Writing for Religious Leaders	Spring 2020
Instructor	Sociology of Religion	Winter 2020
Instructor	Writing for Religious Leaders	Fall 2019

Instructor	Sexual Ethics	Winter 2019
Instructor	Religious Ethics	Fall 2018
Instructor	Mindful Walk: Pilgrimage Immersion, Kolozsvár, Romania	Summer 2018
Instructor	Community Intern Integrative Seminar	Spring 2018
Co-Instructor	Pastoral Counseling	Spring 2018
Instructor	Community Intern Integrative Seminar	Fall 2017
Instructor	Religious Ethics	Fall 2017
Instructor	Community Intern Integrative Seminar	Spring 2017
Instructor	Critical Theory	Spring 2017
Instructor	Community Intern Integrative Seminar	Fall 2016
Instructor	Community Intern Integrative Seminar	Spring 2016
Instructor	Health Ethics	Winter 2016
Instructor	Community Intern Integrative Seminar	Fall 2015
Instructor	Counter-Oppressive Sociologies	Fall 2015
Instructor	Bioethics	Spring 2015
Instructor	Community Intern Integrative Seminar	Spring 2015
Instructor	Sexual Ethics	Winter 2015
Instructor	Community Intern Integrative Seminar	Fall 2014
Instructor	Bioethics	Winter 2013
Instructor	Resilience and Resistance	Winter 2012
Teaching Assistant	Introduction to Ethics	Fall 2011
Teaching Assistant	Educating for Wholeness and Liberation Core Course	Fall 2009
Teaching Assistant	Introduction to Ethics	Fall 2009

San Francisco State University (Undergraduate)

Instructor	Ethics of Medicine, Department of Philosophy	Summer 2015
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Quest University Canada (Undergraduate)

Visiting Instructor	Biomedical Ethics, Department of Life Sciences	Winter 2013
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University of California San Francisco (Graduate)

Teaching Assistant	Social, Economic, and Cultural Determinants of Health, Global Health Sciences Master's Program	Fall 2013
Teaching Assistant	Utilization of Research in Evidence-Based Practice, School of Nursing	Fall 2014

MENTORING

Faculty Mentor	Hilda Mason Teaching Fellowship Starr King School for the Ministry, Berkeley, CA	2018-2020
Faculty Advisor	Masters Programs Starr King School for the Ministry, Berkeley, CA	2014-2020
MA Project Supervisor	Master of Arts in Social Change Starr King School for the Ministry, Berkeley, CA	2018

SERVICE

Convener	Journal Club on Trauma, Mental Health and Resilience (Virtual)	2022-Present
Member	Committee on Anti-Racism, Anti-Oppression, and Multiculturalism	2021-Present
Trainer-Organizer	Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association (National) Steering Team	2016-2021
Officer	Unitarian Universalist Class Conversations (National) Sociology Student Organization	2019-2020
Chairperson	University of California San Francisco, CA Sub-Committee on Education, Accreditation Committee	2018-2019
Member	Starr King School for the Ministry, Berkeley, CA Ethical Guidelines Committee	2018-2019
Faculty Representative	Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association Admissions Committee	2017-2018
Faculty Representative	Starr King School for the Ministry, Berkeley, CA Curriculum Committee	2017-2018
Coordinator	Starr King School for the Ministry, Berkeley, CA Student Colloquium Series	2012-2013
Volunteer Lead	Department of Social/Behavioral Sciences & Institute on Health and Aging, University of California San Francisco, CA Project Homeless Connect/SF Department of Public Health	2012-2013
Student Representative	Bill Graham Auditorium, San Francisco, CA Racial Justice Advocacy Group	2010-2011
Newsletter Editor	Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, CA Student Association	2009-2011
Co-Founder/Member	Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, CA White Anti-Racist Community Group	2006-2011
Commissioner	Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, CA National Truth Commission on Conscience in War	2010
Student Representative	New York, NY Dismantling Racism Committee	2006-2007
	Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, CA	

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Patricia Benner Dissertation Fellowship, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences University of California, San Francisco. \$3,000.	2021
Fund for Nurturing Scholarship Research Award Unitarian Universalist Association, Boston, MA. \$7,500.	2021
Fund for Nurturing Scholarship Research Award Unitarian Universalist Association, Boston, MA. \$20,000.	2017
Joseph Gittler Fund for Religious and Ethics Grant Award Unitarian Universalist Association, Boston, MA. \$3,000.	2016
C. Harrington Health Policy Fellowship, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences University of California, San Francisco, CA. \$3,000.	2014

HONORS AND AWARDS

Science for Seminaries Faculty Enrichment American Academy for the Advancement of Science, Dialogue on Science, Ethics & Religion, Retreat, Midway, UT (Declined due to family illness).	2019
Dean's Health Sciences Fellowship Award University of California, San Francisco, CA.	2013-2015
Newhall Teaching Fellowship Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA. (Declined)	2011
Dean's Merit Scholarship Pacific School of Religion, Graduate Theological Union	2006-2008
Patricia Rieker Award for Most Distinguished Academic Record in Society & Health Department of Sociology, Simmons University	2006
Barbara Lee Legislative Fellowship, Simmons University	2006
Honors Program, Simmons University	2002-2006

MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Sociological Association	2011-present
American Academy of Religion	2016-present
Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association	2011-present