

Shirley Paulson, PhD Curriculum Vitae

Ph.D., University of Birmingham, UK, 2017

Thesis: *Healing Theologies in Christian Science and Secret Revelation of John: A Critical Conversation in Practical Theology*

M.T.S., Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary, 2005

M.A. Principia College, 1970

Shirley Paulson PhD, specializes in both canonical and extracanonical writings, with a particular interest in understanding the motives of their authors, especially the varied views of Jesus and his commitment to healing and helping in the rebellion against Roman oppression. Paulson is the principal producer of the Early Christian Texts website, earlychristiantexts.com, which features the “Bible and Beyond” series of blog posts, articles, online courses, events, discussions, and a monthly podcast. As the first Head of Ecumenical Affairs for Christian Science Church (2008-2018), she gained first-hand experience with Christian controversies over healing and orthodox theologies. Her focus on extracanonical texts strengthens her appreciation for their importance then and now for Biblical and Christian studies.

Book

2022 – *Illuminating the Secret Revelation of John: Catching the Light*. Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2022.

2021 – *An Annotated Bibliography of Academic and Other Literature on Christian Science*. Co-authored with Helen Mathis and Linda Bargmann. Chesterfield, MO: Graphic Connections Publishing, 2021.

Articles and Book Chapters

Forthcoming – “Christian Science.” *The Covid Pandemic and the World’s Religions: Faith Communities Assess its Impact*. Bloomsbury, forthcoming in 2022.

2021 – “Jesus by Many Other Names.” *After Jesus, Before Christianity*, eds. Erin Vearncombe, Hal Taussig, Brandon Scott. Harper, 2021.

2020 - “Medicine and Healing | Christianity | New Christian Movements.” In *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*, edited by Helmer, McKenzie, Römer, Schröter, Walfish, and Ziolkowski.

2019 – “The Christianity Seminar: A Report on the 2019 Spring Meeting.” *The Fourth R* 32, no. 4 (2019).

2018 – “The Christianity Seminar: A Report on the 2018 Spring Meeting.” *The Fourth R* 31, no. 4 (2018).

2017 – “Considering Issues of Mass Incarceration Through the Lens of the Beatitudes,” *Thinking Theologically about Mass Incarceration: Biblical Foundations and Justice Imperatives*, Paulist Press, 2017.

2017 – “A Christian Science View on Climate Justice.” *Ecumenical Trends* 46, no. 7 (2017).

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- 2015 – "Christian Science and its Christian origin." *Acta Comparanda Subsidia II*, (2015).
2014 – "The Emerging Face of Being One: Discerning the Ecumenical Community from the Christian Science Church." *Journal of Ecumenical Studies* (2014).
2014 – "Church of Christ, Scientist: Adherent Essay." In *Handbook of Religion: A Christian Engagement with Traditions, Teachings, and Practices*, edited by Terry C. Muck, Harold A. Netland, Gerald R. McDermott, 2014.
2013 – "Self-Understanding of Christian Science," *Ecumenical Trends*, May, 2013.
2013 – "Christian Science Christians' Healing Practice," *Unity in Mission: Theological Reflections on the Pilgrimage of Mission*, 2013.

Conference Papers

- 2019 – "Enlightenment on psychological aspects of the New Testament healing from Nag Hammadi," presented to the Psychological Hermeneutics of Biblical Themes and Texts Section, International Society of Biblical Literature (ISBL), Rome, Italy, July 2019
2009-2017 – numerous presentations: CESNUR (Salt Lake City; Turin, Italy; Taipei, Taiwan; Falun, Sweden; Tallinn, Estonia; Jerusalem, Israel)
2009 – Parliament of the World's Religions

Sample Lectures and Workshops

- 2020 – "How do Early Followers of Jesus Speak Today?" Clearview
2019 – Principia Summer Session course: "Gender and healing in Bible times"
2018 – Westar in Denver: "Healing in a fractured time: wholeness for the early followers of Jesus"
2018 – Principia Summer Session course: "Healing theologies and practices in the early Christian church"
2017 – 2018 "Second-century Christians and second-century Christian Scientists:" Broadview and Tenacre
2013 – "Emerging Face of One": North American Academy of Ecumenists
2013 – Faculty member at the 2013 Asilomar Bible Study Seminar
2015 – "Christian Science and its Christian origin": FVG, Faculty for Comparative Study of Religions and Humanism, Antwerp, Belgium
2012 – 2014: Member, Christian Science Board of Lectureship, numerous classroom and public lectures throughout the US and Canada
2012 – "Women Who Followed Jesus": Federation of Christian Ministries

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Online Course (through Udemy and People's Catholic Seminary)

Ancient Texts for Modern Healing
The Gospel of Thomas Goes Public
Healing Violence: The Letter of Peter to Philip

Professional Service

2021 – present: Board member, Westar Institute
2018 – present: Westar Fellow
2012 – present: Member, Society of Biblical Literature
1991 – 2020: Christian Science Practitioner
2008 – 2019: Member, American Academy of Religion
2009 – 2018: Head of Ecumenical Affairs for The First Church of Christ, Scientist
2010 – 2018: Faith and Order Convening Table, NCC, Member
2012 – 2018: North American Academy of Ecumenists, Board member
2008 – 2018: Official Observer National Council of Churches
2015 – 2017: Tanho Center Member
2006 – 2014: Lecturer for Speaker's Bureau for The First Church of Christ, Scientist
2007 – 2009: National Board of Governors, RCC
2005 – 2009: Co-founder, Religion Communicators Council Chicago chapter
2002 – 2006: Christian Science Committee on Publication for Illinois
1995 - 1997: Coordinator for *Science and Health* Trade Edition
1986 – 1987: Midwest Circulation Manager for the Christian Science Monitor

Blog and Podcast

2019 – present: The Bible and Beyond Podcast and Blog on Early Christian Texts website
2012 – 2013: Podcast = "Christ's Christianity" on christianscience.com
2010 – 2011: Panelist on The Seeker, religious blog for Chicago Tribune
Titles: "Dalai Lama victorious at warfare," "Will Bible's message survive 'Survivor' treatment?," "Coming to terms with forgiveness," "'In God We Trust' believers don't need motto to remind them," "Vatican isn't the only one," "Looking at day to pray another way."
2010 – 2017: Blog = "Circle of Faith," at christianscience.com/c-o-f and Facebook
2009 – 2010: Blog = whatishappeningchicago.wordpress.com – Chicago Christian Science Fellowship
2006 – 2009: Podcast = www.SpiritualityandChristianity.com-- Interreligious podcasts

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Awards

2007 – DeRose Hinkhouse Award of Excellence from Religion Communicators Council

2005 – same

1988 – Golden Apple Award, Mayor of Atlanta, GA – volunteer work in inner city

1970 – Dean’s List for Principia College