

## Karen deVries

### *Curriculum Vitae*

Department of Philosophy  
University of Colorado-Colorado Springs  
1420 Austin Bluffs Parkway  
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## AREAS of STUDY

Political and Social Philosophy  
Religion, Science, and Secularism  
Environmental Humanities  
Cultural Studies and Critical Theory  
Feminist Science and Technology Studies  
Feminist, Queer, and Anti-Racist Theory  
Religion, Culture, & Politics in the Contemporary United States

## EDUCATION

- Ph.D. University of California at Santa Cruz (2014)  
History of Consciousness with a Designated Emphasis in Feminist Studies  
Dissertation: *Prodigal Knowledge: Queer Journeys in Religious and Secular Borderlands*  
directed by Donna Haraway
- M.A. University of Chicago Divinity School (1999)  
Religion and the Human Sciences
- B.A. Lawrence University, *magna cum laude*  
Religious Studies

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### August 2023 – Present

#### **Associate Teaching Professor, Philosophy, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs**

Courses taught: Introduction to Environmental Humanities (HUM 3990); Madness, Prison, and Sex: Foucault and Postmodern Philosophy (PHIL 3595); Religion, Gender, and Sexuality (PHIL 3110); Religion and Science (PHIL 3030); Introduction to Ethics (PHIL 1020); Individual and Society (PHIL 1040); Gray Matters (GPS 1010); Conversations about Complexity (HNRS 3011)

### July 2015 – Present

#### **Instructor, Political Science, Montana State University**

Ongoing summer course – Culture and Ideology: The Modern Prison (PSCI 339)

## **August 2018 – July 2023**

### **Instructor, Philosophy, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs**

Courses taught: Gray Matters (GPS 1010); Conversations about Complexity (HNRS 3011); Women and Religion (PHIL 3110); Religion and Science (PHIL 3030); Introduction to Ethics (PHIL 1020); Individual and Society (PHIL 1040); Introduction to Social Justice (WEST 1010); Religion and Culture in America from WWII to the Present (HIST 4540)

## **August 2014 – May 2018**

### **Instructor at Montana State University**

Courses Taught: Knowledge & Community (CLS 101); Texts and Critics – Knowledge (HONR 201); Texts and Critics – Imagination (HONR 202); Introduction to American Government (PSCI 210); Modern Political Thought (PSCI 323); Classical Political Thought (PSCI 351); Contemporary Issues in Political Theory (PSCI 354); Politics and Religion in the United States (PSCI 491); Knowledge and Community (CLS 101); Place and Identity (US 101); Introduction to Feminist Theories (WGSS 201); LGBTQ Studies (WGSS 378); Feminist Science Studies (WGSS 494)

Other Activities: advised 6 graduate students (Political Science, History, and English)

## **August 2015 – 2017**

### **Instructor at Gallatin Community College in Bozeman, Montana**

Courses Taught: Myth and Belief (RLST 207); Introduction to American Government (PSCI 210)

## **2010 – 2014 and 2000 – 2004**

### **Teaching Assistant at University of California/Santa Cruz**

Courses Taught: Introduction to Feminist Theories (FMST 100); Sexuality and Globalization (FMST 140); Feminism and Science (FMST 194); Culture and Ideology (HISC 80); Myth and Religion (HISC 80); Science as Culture and Practice (HISC 80); America and Americans (AMST 80); Native American Experience (AMST 80); US Racial and Ethnic Histories and Formations (AMST 80)

## **PRODUCTS**

deVries, Karen, Walter Fleming, Matthew Herman, Lisa Perry, and Christine Stanton. *Guide to Creating Land Acknowledgements*. Montana State University, 2022.

[https://www.montana.edu/access-success/resources/facultystaff/landacknowledgements\\_guide.html](https://www.montana.edu/access-success/resources/facultystaff/landacknowledgements_guide.html)

deVries, Karen, Elizabeth Asserson, Anna Elliot, Colter Ellis, Kelly Knight, Monica Skewes, Stephanie Lindsay, and Shihua Brazill. *Guide to Trauma-Informed Pedagogies*. Montana State University, 2022.

[https://www.montana.edu/access-success/resources/facultystaff/trauma\\_informed\\_guide.html](https://www.montana.edu/access-success/resources/facultystaff/trauma_informed_guide.html)

deVries, Karen, Bryce Hughes, and Debora Rinio. *Guide to Diversifying Course Content*. Montana State University, 2021.

[https://www.montana.edu/access-success/resources/facultystaff/diversifying\\_content\\_guide.html](https://www.montana.edu/access-success/resources/facultystaff/diversifying_content_guide.html)

deVries, Karen, Levena Buggs, Hilary Burt, Rebecca Jones, Meredith Knowles, Kathryn Plymessenger, and Nora Smith. *Guide to Facilitating Challenging Conversations*. Montana State University, 2021

[https://www.montana.edu/access-success/resources/facultystaff/facilitatingconvos\\_guide.html](https://www.montana.edu/access-success/resources/facultystaff/facilitatingconvos_guide.html)

deVries, Karen, Abbey Boyer, Anna Elliot, Jacqueline Frank, Barbara Komlos, Myleen Leary, Madison Myers, Craig Ogilvie, Sarah Pennington, Lisa Verwys. *Guide to Inclusive Teaching*. Montana State University, 2020

[https://www.montana.edu/access-success/resources/facultystaff/inclusive\\_guides.html](https://www.montana.edu/access-success/resources/facultystaff/inclusive_guides.html)

## PUBLICATIONS

### Peer-Reviewed

- deVries, Karen. "Thinking with Jonathan Z. Smith and *Drudgery Divine* on the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Its Publication." *Religious Studies Review* 51, no. 3 (September, 2025): 669-672.  
<https://doi.org/10.1111/sr.18160>.
- Rushing, Sara and Karen deVries. "Radical Democratic Citizen-Subjectivity: Scouting and Storytelling in Our Time." *Theory and Event* 26, no.4 (October, 2023): 643-668.  
<https://doi.org/10.1353/tae.2023.a909211>
- Cech, Erin, Annika Metz, Jessi Smith, and Karen deVries. "Dominant Epistemologies and Inequality among Native American Science and Health Students" in *Science, Technology, and Human Values*. 2017.
- deVries, Karen, "Origins Games." *Fabricating Origins*. ed. Russell T. McCutcheon. Sheffield: Equinox Publishing, 2015.
- deVries, Karen. "Faith-based Approaches: Christian Fundamentalism." In *Encyclopedia of Poverty and Social Welfare in the U.S.*, edited by Gwendolyn Mink & Alice O'Connor: ABC-CLIO Publishers, 2004.
- deVries, Karen. "Reflections on Homoeroticism and Mysticism," review of *Roads of Excess, Palaces of Wisdom: Eroticism and Reflexivity in the Study of Mysticism*," by Jeffrey J. Kripal, 2001, in the Modern Language Association's *Lesbian Gay Studies Newsletter* 29.3 (Fall 2002).

### Book Manuscript in Preparation

*Prodigal Daughters and Planet Earth: Parables for Living and Dying Well in the Anthropocene.*

## GRANTS, AWARDS, and HONORS

- 2023 Faculty Revitalization Grant
- 2019 Faculty Assembly Committee for Women Mini-Grant
- 2018 Montana State University Lavender Leader Award
- 2017 Montana State University Betty Coffey Award
- 2005 UC/Santa Cruz Humanities Dean's Fellowship
- 2004 UC/Santa Cruz Dissertation Fellowship
- 2003 UC/Santa Cruz Graduate Student Research Fellowship
- 2003 UC/Santa Cruz Graduate Student Research & Travel Grant
- 2002 UC/Santa Cruz Graduate Student Research & Travel Grant
- 2001 NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Honorable Mention
- 2000 UC/Santa Cruz Regents Fellowship
- 1999 UC/Santa Cruz Tuition Fellowship
- 1998 University of Chicago Tuition Fellowship
- 1997 University of Chicago Tuition Fellowship

## INVITED TALKS

- 2025 Colorado College Philosophy Colloquium. "Sowing Worlds Together: Seeking Wisdom in Religious and Secular Borderlands"
- 2024 UCCS Philosophy in the City. "Feminist Angles, Angels, and Attentions."
- 2022 UCCS Office of Research. "What Is Your Research Groove? A Slow Scholarship Panel Discussion"
- UCCS Philosophy in the City. "Fantasy and Thought Experiments in Philosophy: What's the Point?"
- 2021 UCCS Center for Religious Diversity and Public Life, A virtual conversation with Donna Haraway, Karen deVries, and Jeff Scholes, "Religion, Science, and Storytelling."
- 2021 UCCS Honors Program. "Complexity and Knowledge in Science and Religion."
- 2020 UCCS Philosophy in the City. "The Specter of Hypocrisy."
- 2019 Montana State University Political Science Dept. "Food Systems and Capitalism"
- 2017 Bozeman Dharma Center. LGBTQ and gender expert and public speaker for "Peace Through Diversity" event at Bozeman Public Library.
- "Inheriting LGBTQ History." Invited panelists for "The Gay Agenda: Queer Work and Politics" event sponsored by Montana State University's Diversity Center.
- Keynote speaker for Lavender Graduation Ceremony at Montana State University.
- 2016 Montana Racial Equity Project. Community Forum on Race in Montana. "Race, Ethnicity, and Politics."
- 2015 Center for Cultural Studies. University of California at Santa Cruz. "Queer Storytelling, Secular Religion, and the Anthropocene Blues."
- 2014 Montana State University Biology Department. "Feminist Science Studies."
- Montana State University. Students Against Sexual Assault panel on domestic violence and gender stereotypes in Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2025 "Theorizing Crisis in Our Times" invited presentation at North American Association for the Study of Religion annual conference. November 22, 2025. Boston, CA.
- 2024 "Now That's What I Call *Drudgery Divine*" invited paper for the Redescribing Christian Origins Seminar (RCO) and NAASR joint 35th Anniversary panel on J.Z. Smith's *Drudgery Divine*, AAR/SBL Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, November.
- 2022 "Teaching Climate 'Crisis' in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." American Academy of Religion conference. Denver, CO.
- 2019 "Earthseed Religion, Prodigal Protest, and a Reconfigured Gaia." National Association of Women's Studies. San Francisco, CA.
- 2017 "Prodigal Configurations: Queering the Religion/Secular Binary." National Association of Women's Studies. Baltimore, MD.
- "Nevertheless, She Resisted: The Citizen-Subjectivity of Scouting and Storytelling." With Dr. Sara Rushing at the Association for Political Theory. Ann Arbor, MI.
- 2014 "Prodigal Daughters and the Earthbound at the Edge of the Anthropocene." Under Western Skies 3: Intersections of Environments, Technologies and Communities at Mount Royal University in Calgary, Alberta. Feminism, Justice, and Environments.
- 2014 "Prodigal Siblings and Children of the Future." Interruptions: Feminisms, Sciences,

Knowledges conference at UC/Berkeley. Alternative Storytellings panel.

- 2001 “Constructing the Mind-Brain: Cognition, Conversation and Conversion in the Scientific Study of Religion.” American Academy of Religion Annual Conference. Critical Theory and Discourses on Religion Section. November.
- 2000 “Turning Around Religion: Coalitions On The Move.” History and Theory: Disrupted Identities and the Question of the Universal conference at UC/Irvine.
- 1999 “All New Religious Movements are not Created Equal: (Ab)using the Margins.” 13th Annual National Feminist Graduate Student Conference, UT/Austin.

## **RESEARCH and CONSULTING**

### **2020 – 2023**

#### **Project Manager for Montana State University’s Office of Diversity & Inclusion Office**

Coordinate input, write, and oversee production process for faculty resource guides on: Inclusive Teaching; Facilitating Challenging Conversations; Diversifying Course Content; Trauma-Informed Pedagogy; and Land Acknowledgements.

### **2015**

#### **Project Development Specialist for Center for Health Equity in Rural Montana**

NIH grant addressing Substance Use in Indian Country: A Community-Based Approach. Center for Health Equity in Rural Montana. Organized, participated in, and reviewed interviews with community members.

### **2012–2014**

#### **Research Assistant for University of California Santa Cruz’s Center for Cultural Studies & Institute for Humanities Research**

Organized logistics for weekly visiting speakers and marketed weekly colloquia and conference events through social media, web presence, and flyers.

### **2013 Research and Editorial Assistant to History of Consciousness alumni editorial team**

### **20003–2004 Research Assistant to Professor Gary Lease, UC/Santa Cruz**

### **2001 Research Assistant to UC/Santa Cruz Institute for Advanced Feminist Studies**

### **2000 Research Assistant to Professor Donna Haraway, UC/Santa Cruz**

## **SERVICE TO PROFESSION**

- 2026 Executive Committee Member, Honors Program (UCCS)  
Executive Committee Member, ICORE - Interdisciplinary & Complexity Oriented Researchers and Educators (UCCS)  
Member, Faculty Assembly Committee for Women (UCCS)

- Reviewer for *TSQ: Transgender Studies Quarterly*
- 2025 Executive Committee Member, Honors Program (UCCS)  
Executive Committee Member, ICORE - Interdisciplinary & Complexity Oriented Researchers and Educators (UCCS)  
Member, Faculty Assembly Committee for Women (UCCS)
- 2024 Executive Committee Member, Honors Program (UCCS)  
Executive Committee Member, ICORE - Interdisciplinary & Complexity Oriented Researchers and Educators (UCCS)  
Member, Faculty Assembly Committee for Women (UCCS)  
Steering Committee, Feminist Theory and Religious Reflection Unit of AAR
- 2023 Executive Committee Member, Honors Program (UCCS)  
Executive Committee Member, ICORE - Interdisciplinary & Complexity Oriented Researchers and Educators (UCCS)  
Member, Grievance Committee for College of Letters, Arts, and Science (UCCS)  
Member, Faculty Assembly Committee for Women (UCCS)  
Steering Committee, Feminist Theory and Religious Reflection Unit of AAR
- 2022 Executive Committee Member, Honors Program (UCCS)  
Executive Committee Member, Interdisciplinary Academic Studies Program (UCCS)  
Member, Faculty Assembly Committee for Women (UCCS)  
Reviewer for *Religion and American Culture*  
Steering Committee, Feminist Theory and Religious Reflection Unit of AAR
- 2021 Reviewer for *Journal of Religion, Nature, and Culture*  
Reviewer for *Journal of Lesbian Studies*  
Reviewer for *Contemporary Political Theory*  
Letters, Arts, and Sciences Philosophy Representative to Diversity Council (UCCS)  
Member, Faculty Assembly Committee for Women (UCCS)  
Faculty Representative to Student Feminist Club (UCCS)  
Steering Committee, Feminist Theory and Religious Reflection Unit of AAR
- 2020 Letters, Arts, and Sciences Philosophy Representative to Diversity Council (UCCS)  
Member, Faculty Assembly Committee for Women (UCCS)  
Faculty Representative to Student Feminist Club (UCCS)  
Steering Committee, Feminist Theory and Religious Reflection Unit of AAR
- 2019 Letters, Arts, and Sciences Philosophy Representative to Diversity Council (UCCS)  
Steering Committee, Feminist Theory and Religious Reflection Unit of AAR
- 2018 Women's, Gender, Sexuality Studies Committee Member, Montana State University  
Reviewer for *Journal of American Academy of Religion*  
Co-advisor to Political Theory Consortium, Montana State University
- 2016 Women's, Gender, Sexuality Studies Committee Member, Montana State University  
Co-advisor to Political Theory Consortium, Montana State University
- 2015 Women's, Gender, Sexuality Studies Committee Member, Montana State University  
Co-advisor to Political Theory Consortium, Montana State University
- 2014 Women's, Gender, Sexuality Studies Committee Member, Montana State University  
Safe Zone (promotes safe and inclusive environment for LGBTQIQ community) certified faculty member, Montana State University
- 2013 Co-director UCSC Religious and Secular Entanglements Research Cluster
- 2004 Student representative to Executive Council of North American Association for the Study of Religion

- 2003 Co-organized UCSC Religion and Culture Research Cluster Conference, “(De)Colonizing Religion: Disciplines/Politics/Identities”
- 2002 Student representative to UCSC History of Consciousness faculty search committee
- 2001 Student representative to UCSC History of Consciousness department
- 2000 Assistant Editor to *Method and Theory in the Study of Religion*
- 1998 Student representative to University of Chicago Divinity faculty search committee

## **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT and OUTREACH**

- 2024 Philosophy in the City participant, Colorado Springs, CO
- 2022 Philosophy in the City participant, Colorado Springs, CO
- 2020 Philosophy in the City participant, Colorado Springs, CO
- 2018 Invited discussion leader for Montana Racial Equity Project book club
- 2017 Co-organizer of Women’s March on Montana  
Invited discussion leader for Montana Racial Equity Project book club
- 2016 Volunteer Communications Facilitator between community, student groups, and academic community regarding sexual healthcare and education  
Montana State University Safe Zone certified faculty member