

JULIA BERGER

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EDUCATION

- 2018 Ph.D. in Theology and Religious Studies, University of Kent, UK
Dissertation: *Divine Polity: The Bahá'í International Community and the United Nations*
- 2002 M.Ed. in Curriculum Design, University of Toronto
- 1998 Diploma in Piano Pedagogy, Royal Conservatory of Music, Toronto
- 1997 B.A. in Psychology, with Distinction, Queens University, Canada

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2021 – **Affiliate Faculty, Department of Religion, Montclair State University**
present Montclair, NJ | www.montclair.edu
- Taught five semesters of 16-week RELG101 “Understanding Religion” course (in person and hybrid), 70 students/ semester, with a focus on experiential learning
 - Supervised Teaching Assistant for one semester
 - Consistently rated among top instructors in the Department of Religion
- 2020 - **Faculty, Lead Impact Reconciliation Institute**
2022 Monroe Township, NJ | <https://leadimpactinstitute.org/>
- Developed 1-hr long instructional videos for the Institute’s Program on Religion and Politics at the United Nations: UN, Religion, and Gender Equality; UN, Religion and Peace
- 2019 – **Executive Director, Association for Baha'i Studies – North America**
2022 Ottawa, Canada | <https://bahaistudies.ca>
- Responsible for planning and direction of the organization’s educational and operational programs in Canada and the United States
 - Managed 2 full-time and 3 part-time staff, oversaw the work of various educational committees and treasurer
- 2018 – **Senior Fellow, Bahá'í International Community's United Nations Office**
2021 New York, NY | www.bic.org
- Advised the Office in areas of work concerning the role of religion in society, international development, and gender equality
- 2004 – **Principal Researcher, Bahá'í International Community's United Nations Office**
2015 New York, NY | www.bic.org
- Principal researcher and writer for international NGO in Consultative Status with the United Nations, representing 180+ national affiliates and lead advocate of human rights, gender equality, and sustainable development
 - Lead author of 40+ official statements to UN agencies, including the Economic and Social Council, the Human Rights Council, UN Women, UNDP, and UNICEF

- 2009 – **Lead NGO Consultant, “Project on Religious NGOs at the United Nations,”** University of Kent, UK – funded by UK Arts and Humanities Research Council
- Advisor on New York-based religious NGOs
 - Contributed to formulation of research methods and survey tools
- 2002 – **Research Associate, Harvard Kennedy School of Government,** Program on Religion and Public Life, Cambridge, MA
- Assisted in design of research programs concerning the role of faith-based organizations in the provision of social services in the US, and the architecture of transnational religious organizations
 - Lead author of Harvard Kennedy School case study on faith-based organizations in the urban revitalization of Charlotte, NC
- 1997 – **Teacher,** Japan Exchange and Teaching Program
- 2000 Saitama, Japan
- Taught English to middle school students and public servants
 - Created and directed cross-cultural programs and teacher training workshops
 - Created and led English language theater program for middle school students

PUBLICATIONS

- 2023 **Berger, J.** “*Theory of Women in Religions.*” Review of Theory of Women in Religions by Catherine Wessinger. *Contemporary Sociology: A Journal of Reviews*, Volume 52 Issue 1.
- 2021 **Berger, J.** *Rethinking Religion and Politics for a Plural Age: The Baha’i International Community and the United Nations.* New York: Bloomsbury Academic.
- 2019 Kavelin, N. and **Berger, J.** “A New Vision of Human Flourishing: Rethinking the Purpose and Protagonists of Development.” In *International Development Actors and Local Faith Communities: Ideological and Cultural Encounters*, edited by Olivia Wilkinson and Katheryn Kraft. New York: Routledge.
- 2018 **Berger, J.** “The Baha’i International Community, the UN and the Gender Equality Discourse.” In *Religion, Public Discourse and the Post-Secular Transition: Baha’i Perspectives and Experiences*, edited by Benjamin Schewel and Geoffrey Cameron. Pages 221-254. Waterloo, ON: Wilfred Laurier University Press.
- 2017 **Berger, J.** “Religious Organizations.” In *Global Encyclopedia of Public Administration, Public Policy, and Governance*, edited by Ali Farazmand. Springer International Publishing.
- 2016 **Berger, J.** “Religion and Gender Equality: The role of faith-based organizations and actors in achieving gender equality through the implementation of Agenda 2030.” *In Brief.* New York: UN Women.
- 2004 **Berger, J.** *Faith in the City: Patrick McCrory and the Mayor’s Mentoring Alliance.* Hauser Center for Non-profit Organizations, Harvard Kennedy School of Government.
- 2003 **Berger, J.** “Religious Nongovernmental Organizations: An Exploratory Analysis.” *VOLUNTAS: International Journal of Voluntary and Nonprofit Organizations* 14(1): 15-40. (500+ citations on Google Scholar)

INVITED TALKS (selected)

- 2022 *A Greater Solidarity: Building Community in a Polarized World*. Presentation to the Institute of Catholic Theology at the University of Dresden, Germany (May 30)
Ideas, Religion and Social Change. Presentation for the Wilmette Institute – A Global Baha’i Learning Center (Jan 22)
Ideas, Religion and Social Change. Featured monthly presenter to the Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities (Feb 10)
- 2021 *Religion and the United Nations: Conceptual Frameworks for Social Change*. Presentation to New York University’s International Relations Graduate Seminar in Radicalization and Religion (April 16)
- 2020 *Religion and Peacemaking: Conceptual Frameworks for Social Change*. Presentation to New York University’s International Relations Graduate Seminar in Radicalization and Religion (March 27)
- 2016 *The Changing Role of Religion in the Modern World*. Association for Bahá’í Studies Webinar. [<https://vimeo.com/157280216>]
- 2015 *A Future for All: The United Nations through Women and Faith*. Panel organized by the UN Department of Public Information, United Nations Headquarters, New York (February 5)
- 2010 *Religious NGOs and Faith-Based Organizations at the UN: Theoretical and Definitional Problems*. Research Colloquium on Religious NGOs and the United Nations at New York and Geneva, University of Kent, UK (May 6-7)
- 2007 *The Bahá’í International Community and Freedom of Religion or Belief: Perspectives from an International NGO at the United Nations*. Conference on Freedom of Religion and Belief in a Global Perspective: Challenges and Opportunities, Berlin (December 7-9)
- 2004 *The Bahá’í Faith and Transnational Religion*. Harvard Law School workshop on Transnational Identity, Governance, and International Law (October 14)
- 2003 *Enhancing the Partnership Between Faith and Ethics-Based NGOs and the United Nations*. Annual Meeting of the Committee of Religious NGOs at the United Nations, New York (May 14)

PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT

LEADERSHIP

- Co-Chair | American Academy of Religion Bahá’í Studies Group (2019 – present)
Co-Chair | American Academy of Religion Mid-Atlantic Region Women’s Caucus (2017-2019)
Steering Committee | American Academy of Religion (national) Women’s Caucus (2014 – 2022)
Secretary | Executive Committee, Association for Bahá’í Studies – North America (2015 – 2019)
Reviewer | Routledge; *Global Governance: A Review of Multilateralism and International Organizations*, *VOLUNTAS: International Journal of Voluntary and Nonprofit Organizations*, *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*

CONFERENCES ORGANIZED

- 2021 Methodologies in Academic Research | Virtual (50+ attendees)
2020 Methodologies in Academic Research | Virtual (50+ attendees)

- 2021 Association for Bahá'í Studies – North America | Virtual (2,500+ attendees)
- 2020 Association for Bahá'í Studies – North America | Virtual (3,000+ attendees)
- 2018 Association for Bahá'í Studies – North America, Annual Conference (1,600+ attendees)

CONFERENCE PANELS ORGANIZED (selected)

- 2021 *International Scholars' Research on Gender, Religion, Poverty and Inequality*. Women's Caucus, American Academy of Religion. Virtual (November 29 – December 10)
- 2020 *Feminist Theologies and Religious Studies – Publications from Around the World*. Women's Caucus, American Academy of Religion. Virtual (November 29 – December 10)
- 2020 *Changing Identities in a Global Society*. Baha'i Studies Unit, American Academy of Religion. Virtual (December 2)
- 2018 *Moving Forward: Conversations Among Deans and Chairpersons*. Mid-Atlantic Region of the American Academy of Religion. New Brunswick, NJ (March 15-16)
- 2015 *The Politics of Engagement: Religious NGOs and the United Nations*. Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. Sponsored by the Religion & Politics Section, and International Development & Religion Group. Atlanta, GA (November 21-24)
- 2015 Plenary Panel. *Religion in Society*. Association for Bahá'í Studies Annual Conference, Orange County, CA (August 6-9)

CONFERENCE PAPERS (selected)

- 2021 *Religion, Ideas and Social Change: The Baha'i International Community and the United Nations*. Association for Baha'i Studies Annual Conference, Virtual (July 23 – 31)
- 2020 *Methodologies in Religious Studies*. Association for Baha'i Studies Annual Conference, Virtual (July 24 – August 8)
- 2018 *What is 'Religious' about 'Religious NGOs': Exploring organizational rationale in the work of the Baha'i International Community*. Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Denver, CO (November 17-20)
- 2018 *International Religious NGOs and the Pursuit of Global Justice*. Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Denver, CO (November 17-20)
- 2018 *Aligning Means and Ends in the Pursuit of Peace: Exploring the Baha'i community's engagement with the United Nations*. Annual Meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Region of the American Academy of Religion, New Brunswick, NJ (March 15-16)
- 2017 *The Bahá'í International Community, the UN and the Gender Equality Discourse*. Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Boston, MA (November 18-21)
- 2015 *The Bahá'í International Community's engagement in the Gender Equality Discourse at the UN*. British Association for the Study of Religion Annual Conference, University of Kent, UK (September 7-9)
- 2005 *Religious Non-Governmental Organizations at the United Nations*. Religious NGOs and the International Aid System: An International Research Conference hosted by the Norwegian Institute for International Affairs, Oslo (April 7-8)
- 2003 *Religious Nongovernmental Organizations: Emerging Transnational Architectures*. International Conference on Religion and Globalization, Payap University Institute for the Study of Religion and Culture, Chiang Mai, Thailand (July 27 – August 2)

DISCUSSANT/ RESPONDENT (selected)

- 2020 *Respondent to Dr. Ulrike Auga's An Epistemology of Religion and Gender Biopolitics, Performativity and Agency* (Routledge, 2020). American Academy of Religion (November 29 – December 10)
- 2017 *Rethinking Resistance and Resilience*. Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Boston (November 18-21)
- 2015 *Religion and Sustainable Development: Experiences and Perspectives from the German International Development Cooperation Legacy*. Panel organized by the UN Inter-Agency Task Force for Engaging FBOs in Development, United Nations Headquarters, New York (December 10)

AWARDS & GRANTS

AWARD FOR RESEARCH IN RELIGION | Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (2004)

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARDS | Queen's University, Canada

Gordon and Myrtle Adams Scholarship, 15 awarded to Year III students (1995); Don Wright Scholarship in Music Education (1994); Queen's University Honour Matriculation Scholarship (1993); Queen's University Scholarship in Music, 5 awarded (1993); Donna Frazer Gobin Scholarship in Music (1993)

LANGUAGES

Polish (native); English (fluent); French (proficient); Japanese (intermediate)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion
Association for Bahá'í Studies – North America
United Nations Faith and Feminism Working Group

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Montclair Race Amity Initiative, Co-Founder
Montclair Interfaith Clergy Association, Member
Local Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Montclair, Secretary