

# WHO WE ARE

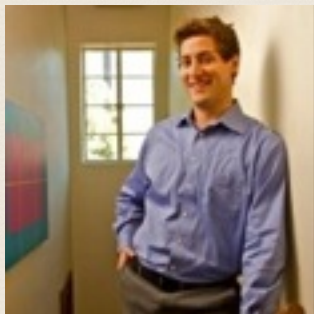
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**Marie Cartier**, Co-Chair, Queer Studies in Religion Session; Founder of the Queer Caucus, AAR/WR; and Co-Chair, Lesbian-Feminist Issues in Religion, AAR, is a teacher, poet, writer, healer, artist, and scholar. She holds a BA in

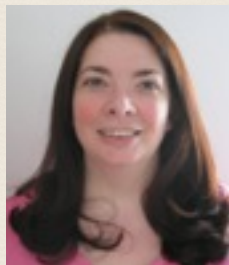
Communications from the University of New Hampshire; an MA in English/Poetry from Colorado State University; an MFA in Theatre Arts (Playwriting) from UCLA; an MFA in Film and TV (Screenwriting) from UCLA; and an MFA in Visual Art (Painting/Sculpture) from Claremont Graduate University. Ms. Cartier has a Ph.D. in Religion with an emphasis on Women and Religion from Claremont Graduate University. She is the author of the critically acclaimed book [Baby, You Are My Religion: Women, Gay Bars, and Theology Before Stonewall](#). She is also a first degree black belt in karate, Shorin-Ryu Shi-Do-Kan Kobayashi style.  
(Photo - Lenn Keller)

**John Erickson**, Co-Chair, Queer Studies in Religion Session, is a Ph.D. Candidate in American Religious History at Claremont Graduate University.



He holds a MA in Women's Studies in Religion; an MA in Applied Women's Studies; and a BA in Women's Literature and Women's Studies. He is a permanent contributor to blog [Feminism and Religion](#), a Non-Fiction Reviewer for [Lambda Literary](#), the leader in LGBT reviews, author interviews, opinions and news since 1989. He works for the City of West Hollywood and can be followed on Twitter [@JErickson85](#)

## QUEER ADVOCATE



**Leigh Ann Hildebrand**, Queer Advocate, is a Ph.D. Candidate in Jewish Culture and History at the Graduate Theological Union. She holds a BA in Comparative Religious Studies and Middle East Studies from San Jose State University and a MTS from Harvard Divinity School. Her research interests include ritual innovation in feminist American Judaisms, religion and marginalized sexual identities, and constructed tradition.



American Academy of Religion  
Western Region

## QUEER STUDIES IN RELIGION



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QUEER STUDIES IN  
RELIGION CAUCUS  
[www.aarwr.com/queer-caucus.html](http://www.aarwr.com/queer-caucus.html)

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# QUEER STUDIES IN RELIGION

We are dedicated to the advancement of LGBTQ individuals inside and outside of the academy, giving special attention to LGBTQ voices in the field of religion and the challenges we face in our region. Each year at the AAR/WR Annual Meeting, the Queer Studies in Religion Caucus hosts a caucus business meeting and a pre-conference event. We welcome participation and collaboration.



The vision of the Queer Caucus is to engage a multiplicity of voices –artists, activists, scholars – in the ways queer studies and religion intersect within and beyond the academic institution. Our ongoing commitment is to: (1) provide a safe and supportive environment for dialogue among queer-identified individuals, scholars, students, allies, and members of the at-large community; and (2) to host forums for the sharing of ideas between the scholarly community and the general public in order to encourage positive examples of how religion and queer studies intersect.

## WHAT WE DO

Each year the Queer Studies in Religion Caucus// Sessions sponsors and/or co-sponsors panels and sessions at the American Academy of Western Religion's Western Region's Annual Meeting around the topic of queer studies in religion.



## "QUEER VIEW" PRE-CONFERENCE EVENT

Prior to the start of each conference, the Queer Studies in Religion Caucus puts on an annual "Queer View" event where we showcase the artistic works of LGBTQ individuals to the field of queer studies in religion.



## WE NEED YOU

As the only regional section of the American Academy of Religion that is dedicated to the exploration of queer studies in religion and other relevant fields in the nation, we need you to continue to support our sessions and caucus through submitting your papers to be included into our sessions and our "Queer View" event!

