

## **Maria (Ria) W. Van Ryn**

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### **Areas of Interest**

Sociology of Religion, Race and Ethnicity, Sex and Gender, Social Theory, Pedagogy

### **Education**

**University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill** Chapel Hill, NC  
*Ph.D., Sociology, expected 2010* • Dissertation: "Raising them Right: Jewish and Islamic Education in America" (Chair: Lisa Pearce)

*M.A., Sociology, 2007* • Thesis: "'There's the Jewish Culture and Then There's the Religion': Exploring the Potential of Cultural Identity for Jewish Adolescents" (Committee: Lisa D. Pearce, Christian Smith, Charles Kurzman)

Comprehensive Exams, passed 2007, Sociology of Religion and Feminist Sociology

**Vanderbilt University** Nashville, TN  
*M.A., Religion, 2004* • Thesis: "Hearing the Silence: Popular Religion and Jewish Feminist Ritual Change" (Committee: Jay Geller, Dale Johnson)

**Trinity University** San Antonio, TX  
*B.A., cum laude, Religion and Sociology (English minor), 2002*

**Trinity College/Coleg y Drindod** Carmarthen, Wales, UK  
*Semester abroad, Fall 2000*

### **Publications**

Kurzman, Charles, Chelise Anderson, Clinton Key, Youn OK Lee, Mairead Moloney, Alexis Silver, and **Maria W. Van Ryn**. 2007. "Celebrity Status." *Sociological Theory* 25(4): 347-367. [authors are alphabetical after the first]

**Van Ryn, Ria**. 2007. Review of *Righteous* and "Jesus Camp." *Review of Religious Research*: 48(4): 441-442.

## Work in Progress

**Van Ryn, Maria W.** and Lisa D. Pearce. "In Their Words: Religiosity and Spirituality from Early to Late Adolescence."

**Van Ryn, Maria W.** ""There's the Jewish Culture and Then There's the Religion": Exploring the Potential of Cultural Identity for Jewish Adolescents."

**Van Ryn, Maria W.** "Hearing the Silence: Incorporating Jewish Feminism into the Lived Religion Perspective."

**Van Ryn, Maria W.** "Sports Autobiography, Religious Autobiography: Parallels in Cosmological Writing."

**Van Ryn, Maria W.** "In Pursuit of Rectification: Daniel Deronda, Jewishness, and Identity Construction."

## Presentations

"Life in "the Holy Trinity": Sports Autobiography as Religious Autobiography." Paper to be presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association in San Francisco, CA. August 2009.

"In Their Words: Religiosity and Spirituality from Early to Late Adolescence." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion in Louisville, KY. October 2008.

"What is Sociology of Religion, Anyway?" and "Jewish Adolescent Identity." Presentations given to the Jewish Studies Graduate Student Group, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. February 2008.

""There's the Jewish Culture and Then There's the Religion": Exploring the Potential of Cultural Identity for Jewish Adolescents." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association in New York, NY. August 2007.

"In Their Words: Religiosity and Spirituality from Early to Late Adolescence." Paper presented (with co-author Lisa D. Pearce) at the Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research on Child Development in Boston, MA. March 2007.

"Exploring Avenues of Identity for Jewish Adolescents." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion in Portland, OR. October 2006.

"Early Life Course Factors Shaping Religious Involvement in Adolescence." Paper presented (with co-authors Lisa D. Pearce, Daniel DeHanas, and Youn OK Lee) at the

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Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion in Portland, OR. October 2006.

“In Pursuit of Rectification: Daniel Deronda, Jewishness, and Identity Construction.” Paper presented at the Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion in Atlanta, GA. March 2004.

## Awards

Everett K. Wilson Graduate Student Teaching Award, Department of Sociology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. May 2008.

Tuition Scholarship, Vanderbilt University, 2002-2004.

Phi Beta Kappa, Trinity University, May 2002.

Ethel Evans Scholar, Department of Religion, Trinity University, 2000-2002.

Murchison Scholar, Trinity University, 1998-2002.

## Research Experience

**Institute for the Arts and Humanities** Chapel Hill, NC  
*Research Assistant, Spring 2009* • Assisted in planning and implementation of the Faculty Fellows Program.

**National Study of Youth and Religion** Chapel Hill, NC/Notre Dame, IN  
*Research Assistant, Fall 2004-present* • Conducted in-person, in-depth interviews of adolescents around the U.S. Wrote and edited research methods reports. Assisted in supervising phone interviews and with respondent tracking. Assisted in writing and editing survey instrument and in-person interview guide. Helped manage research team interviewers. Performed various office tasks. [PIs: Christian Smith and Lisa D. Pearce]

**Everyday Lives of Youth Project** Chapel Hill, NC  
*Research Assistant, Spring 2007* • Conducted in-person, in-depth interview of teen respondent. Also conducted several observations of respondent in her school, volunteer job, and extra-curricular activities. [PI: Lisa D. Pearce]

**North Carolina Sit-Ins** Chapel Hill, NC  
*Research Assistant, Fall 2004* • Assisted with management and analysis of various records of the 1960s North Carolina sit-ins. [Supervisor: Kenneth Andrews]

## Teaching Experience

### **Teaching Fellow, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill** (Full responsibility.)

Race and Ethnic Relations; Summer 2009

Race, Class, and Gender; Spring 2009

Sex and Gender in Society; Fall 2008

Sociological Theory (Carolina Courses Online); Fall 2008, Fall 2009

Sociological Theory; Spring 2008

Sociological Perspectives; Fall 2007

Religion and Society; Summer 2006, Fall 2009

### **Graduate Research Consultant, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**

(Coordinated the semester-long research project carried out by undergraduate students.

Taught class sessions on research methods and data analysis. Compiled and cleaned data.

Helped students with writing and editing final papers.)

The Labor Force; Instructor Clinton Key, Spring 2006

### **Peer Tutor, Trinity University** (Teaching assistant.)

First Year Seminar: Religion and Prejudice; Professor Edward Curtis, Spring 2001

Social Statistics; Professor Sheryl Tynes, Fall 2001

## Service

Graduate Student Representative, Faculty Recruitment Search Committee, Department of Sociology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. 2008-2009.

Volunteer, Mesila Aid and Information Center for the Foreign Community, Tel Aviv, Israel. Summer 2008.

Participant, BINA Initiative (University of North Carolina community seminar/dialogue on Israel, sponsored by Hillel). Spring 2008.

Co-Chair, University of North Carolina Sociology Recruitment Weekend. Spring 2005 and Spring 2006.

Member, Trinity University Lecturers and Visiting Scholars Committee. 2001-2002.

Co-coordinator, Trinity University Department of Religion Student Association. 2001-2002.

Student Representative, Search Committee for Trinity University Associate Vice-Presidents for Academic Affairs. Spring 2001.

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## **Skills and Qualifications**

Working knowledge of Modern Hebrew and Spanish

Proficient in Stata (statistical analysis), ATLAS.ti (qualitative data analysis), Microsoft Office

Extensive experience working with children and adolescents

## **Professional Affiliations**

American Academy of Religion

American Sociological Association

Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry

Association for the Sociology of Religion

Society for the Scientific Study of Religion

References available upon request.