

Elonda Clay B.S., MLIS, M.Div., Th.M.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Director of the Library and Faculty Librarian, July 2020 – present

Methodist Theological School in Ohio, John W. Dickhaut Library, Delaware, Ohio

- Manage daily operations, supporting the research and information needs of students and faculty.
- Oversee policies, procedures, and facilities for the library, ensuring resource accessibility and security.
- Supervise and evaluate library staff and manage budget and expenditures.
- Advocate for funding, staffing, and technology to meet institutional needs.
- Collaborate with faculty on curriculum planning, resource selection, and library policy development.
- Engage in library layout and design, optimizing space for study and learning.
- Provided reference, research, and bibliographic instructional support to the academic community.
- Facilitate metaliteracy (information, digital, and A.I. literacy) instruction in collaboration with faculty.

Adjunct Faculty Reference Librarian, March 2018 – July 2020

Metropolitan Community Colleges, Kansas City. Kansas City, Missouri

- Provided in-person and virtual reference services to community college students.
- Developed and assessed innovative information literacy instruction and learning modules.
- Created online instructional materials, including LibGuides and videos, to enhance student learning.
- Supported collection development and assisted with circulation services.
- Integrated emerging instructional practices and technologies into library instruction.
- Collaborated with colleagues to design and assess instructional programs focused on information literacy skills.

Archivist and Digital Librarian, January 2014 - June 2015

Philander Smith College, D.W. Reynolds Library and Technology Center, Little Rock, Arkansas

- Managed archival collections, including acquisition, appraisal, and administration of materials in all formats.
- Provided reference services and outreach to researchers, students, and the public.
- Created inventories, catalogued collections, and developed finding aids.
- Digitized documents and photographs, overseeing digital workflows.
- Monitored environmental conditions for archives and exhibits.
- Assisted with library tours and classroom use of the Archives Reading Room.
- Prepared reports, grant applications, and developed policy guidelines for collections.
- Supervised student workers and volunteers.

TEACHING

DM 981 Research Methods for Dissertation, TH810 Colloquy in Theological Research (Master's level), as well as instruction in information, digital, media, and AI literacies.

EDUCATION

2025 Advanced Microcredential Certificate. "Leading A.I. in Theological Education, Association of Theological Schools, ATLA, and In Trust Center for Theological Schools.
2007 Th.M., Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Chicago, Illinois
2005 M.Div., Gammon Theological Seminary, Atlanta, Georgia
1998 M.A., Library and Information Science, University of Missouri at Columbia, Columbia, Missouri
1990 B.S., Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas
 Major: Physical Science

HONORS AND AWARDS

2024 Invited Collaborator, Research Development Workshop in Digital Religion Studies. Social Science Research Council, Religion and the Public Sphere. Brooklyn, New York. November 2024.
 Invited Collaborator, Ecowomanist Collective Workshop. Food, Wealth, and Ecological Well-Being Program, School of Divinity, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC. May 2024.
2021-2023 Invited Collaborator, Technology, Ecology, and Religion and Art (TERA) Collective, McGill University, Montreal, Canada. <https://teracollective.com/>
2022 Invited Collaborator, Future Humans, Human Futures Research Institute, Virginia Tech University, June 2022. Funded by the Henry Luce Foundation.
2017 Guest Researcher, Forschungsinstitut für Philosophie Hannover, June-July 2017. "The Material Culture of Genealogy, Genetics, and the Quest for Ancestry during the Third Reich (Nazi Germany) and in the Contemporary United States"
2014 Emory Center for Digital Scholarship/HBCU Library Alliance Summer Institute for Digital Scholarship. Funded by Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
2009 Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC) Poster/Platform (Oral) Presenter Travel Award
2008-2009 GreenFaith National Fellowship, GreenFaith Interfaith Coalition for the Environment.
2004 Summer Leadership Institute, Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

GRANT DEVELOPMENT/MANAGEMENT

2024 **Digital Humanities Project: Religion and/as Big Data**
 Co-taught virtual digital humanities research project, "Religion and/as Big Data: Mothers in the Movement" with Dr. Roseta Ross, Spelman College and Dr. Claudia Engel, Stanford University. The project, sponsored by the Atlanta University Center's Data Science Initiative and Spelman's Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, explored uses of data science in religion and religious studies while researching the lives of Black women activists and teaching the programming language R and statistical software R Studio. Students learned about big data, uses of data in religion, and emergent

concerns related to religious datafication. June 2024.

2021-2022 **Science for Seminaries**

Principal investigator and project co-leader for the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)/DoSer Grant Program “Science for Seminaries,” designed to incorporate science into the core theological curriculum of the Methodist Theological School in Ohio. \$75,000. Funded by John Templeton Foundation.

PUBLICATIONS

Book Chapters

- 2025 Exodus in a Warming World: An Ecowomanist Sermon, In *Preaching Black Earth*, Melanie Harris, Editor. Westminster John Knox, September 2025.
- 2018 “Backyard Gardens as Sacred Spaces: An Ecowomanist Spiritual Ecology” In *The Elements of Religion and Nature*, Laura Hobgood and Whitney Bauman, editors. (New York: Bloomsbury Academic, 2018). <https://doi.org/10.5040/9781350046856>
- 2017 “Secular Voices of Color: Digital Storytelling, Everyday Activism, and Creating Diverse Secularist Community” in *Humanism in a Non-Humanist World*, Monica R. Miller, editor. Studies in Humanism and Atheism series. (Springer International Publishing: Imprint: Palgrave Macmillan, 2017). https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-57910-8_4
- 2015 “We Are What We Archive” In *Fabricating Origins*, Russell McCutcheon, ed. (Equinox Publishing, 2015).
- 2015 “#NOWTHATSRELIGIONANDHIPHOP: Mapping the Terrain of Religion and Hip Hop in Cyberspace,” in *Religion in Hip Hop: Mapping the New Terrain*, edited by Monica R. Miller and Anthony B. Pinn (New York: Bloomsbury Press, 2015).
- 2011 “Mediated Science, Genetics and Identity in the U.S. African Diaspora” in *Media, Spiritualities, and Social Change*, Stewart Hoover and Monica Emerich, eds. (London; New York: Continuum Press, 2011).
- 2011 “How Does It Feel to be an Environmental Problem? Studying Religion and Ecology in the African Diaspora” in *Inherited Land: The Changing Grounds of Religion and Ecology*, Whitney Bauman, Richard Bohannon, and Kevin O’Brien eds. (Eugene, Oregon: Wipf & Stock, 2011), 148-170.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- 2025 [“The Future of Technology-Religion Relationships: Equity and Inclusion in Spiritual Communities.”](#) Intersections | Social Science Research Council. May 2025.

- 2011 "These Gods Got Swagger: Avatars, Gameplay, and the Digital Performance of Hip Hop Culture in Machinima" *Bulletin for the Study of Religion* [Online], Volume 40 Number 3 (19 August 2011). <https://doi.org/10.1558/bsor.v40i3.002>
- 2010 "A Black Theology of Liberation or Legitimation? A Postcolonial Response to Cone's Black Theology, Black Power at Forty" *Black Theology: An International Journal* [Equinox], November 2010, 307-326. <https://doi.org/10.1558/BLTH.V8I3.307>
- 2009 "Two Turntables and a Microphone: Turntablism, Ritual, and Implicit Religion" in *Culture and Religion* [Routledge] Vol. 10, No. 1, March 2009, 23–38. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14755610902786296>
- 2004 "Subtle Impact: Technology Trends and the Black Church" *Journal of the Interdenominational Theological Center* 31: No. 1 & 2 (Fall 2003/Spring 2004), 153-178.

Book Reviews

- 2017 Book Review of Carolyn Moxley Rouse, John L. Jackson, Marla F. Frederick, *Televised Redemption: Black Religious Media and Racial Empowerment*. (New York, NY: New York University Press, November 2016). Reading Religion, American Academy of Religion, September 2017.
- 2007 Book Review of Daphne C. Wiggins, *Righteous Content: Black Women's Perspectives of Church and Faith*. (New York University Press, 2004). *The Journal of Religion*, Volume 87, Number 3 (July 2007).

PRESENTATIONS

- 2024 "Author Meets Readers: Amanda Baugh's *Falling in Love with Nature: The Values of Latinx Catholic Environmentalism* (NYU Press, 2024). Upcoming Panel Presentation at American Academy of Religion Conference, San Antonio, Texas, November 2024. Session: Catholic Studies Unit and Latina/o Religion, Culture, and Society Unit.
- "Poor Technology: Artificial Intelligence and the Experience of Poverty by Levi Checketts." Invited Book Panel Respondent. Grefenstette Center for Ethics in Science, Technology, and Law, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA. April 2024.
- "Liberation After A.I.? The Rise of Intelligent Machines and the Future of Social Justice" Urban Missiology, <https://www.urbanmissiology.org/>, Lecture, Black History Month Event. February 2024.
- 2023 "#golaydown: Viral Musicking, Digital Antiphony, and Collaborative Performances of Virtual Spirituals on TikTok." Presentation at American Academy of Religion Conference, San Antonio, Texas, November 2023. Session: Music and Religion Unit.
- "#RIPBlackTwitter, #twitterhomegoingservice, and Mourning Memes: Twitter's Digital Apocalypse and Black Twitter's Irreverent Religious Protest," Presentation at American

Academy of Religion Conference, Boston, Massachusetts, November 2023. Joint Session, Religion, Media and Culture and Technology, Religion, and Society.

Symposium, "Black Religion, Pedagogy, and Digital Media." Invited Scholar. Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts. May 2023

Science for Seminaries @MTSO Campus Wide Event: "Growing Resilience: Connections Between Soil Science, Climate Change, and Spiritual Meanings of Soil and Water." Panel Discussion with Dr. Rattan Lal and Dr. Tim Van Meter. April 2023.

- 2022 "From Cyberwomanism to Digital Womanism: Theorizing Womanist Approaches to Digital Praxis and Technology Politics." Presentation at American Academy of Religion Conference, Denver, CO, November 2022. Session: Womanist Approaches to Religion and Society Unit.

"Presentation on Digital Artefacts and Digital Pedagogy." Technology, Ecology, Religion and Art (TERA) Collective Workshop, <https://teracollective.com/> . Montreal, Canada. October 2022.

Food, Wealth, and Ecological Well-Being Peer Mentoring Program. Invited Participant. School of Divinity, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC. October 2022.

Science for Seminaries @MTSO Virtual Event: "All About Waste: Sanitation, Justice, and Reinventing the Toilet" Panel Discussion with Dr. Elizabeth Allison, Dr. Marc Deshusses, and scholar-activist Sarah Nahar. September 2022.

Science for Seminaries @MTSO Virtual Event: "Technology, Older Adults and Churches: Opportunities and Challenges" Panel Discussion with Dr. Heidi Campbell and Marilyn Stratford. August 2022.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion (DoSER) program and the Equipping Christian Leadership in an Age of Science (ECLAS) International Science for Seminaries Retreat. Invited Participant. AAAS Headquarters, Washington, DC, August 2022.

Samuel D. Proctor Inaugural Black Church Summit, Chicago. Ill. Panel Participant, Technology and Digital Access. August 2-5, 2022.

Science for Seminaries @MTSO Virtual Event: "Trust in Science? Facing the Challenge of Science Denial." Panel Discussion with Dr. Gale Sinatra and Dr. Barbara Hofer. May 2022.

Science for Seminaries Lecture. "Deepfakes and Cheap Fakes: Manipulated Media as an Ethical Challenge." Invited Speaker, Duquesne University. Pittsburg, PA. April 2022.

- 2021 Science for Seminaries Virtual Panel: "Pastors, Pandemics, and Public Health." Panel Discussion with Dr. Oleta Fuller, Dr. Emanuel Cleaver III, and Dr. Racheal Schneider. September 2021

Science for Seminaries Event: “Decolonizing AI: From Panopticon Dystopias to Liberative Possibilities.” Respondent and Panel Discussion with Dr. Phillip Reed-Butler and Dr. Sylvester Johnson. Chicago Theological Seminary. April 2021.

“Race in the Study of Religion and Ecology” International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture Conference, March 2021. Session: Key Concepts in Religion, Nature, and Culture.

- 2018 Featured Poet, American Academy of Religion Conference, Denver Colorado, November 2018. Session: Policy and Poetry: The African American Religious Imagination and Social Transformation. Sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution’s Center for the Study of African American Religious Life.

“Informatization and the Algorithmic, Automated, Underconnected, Surveilled, Misogynistic Nature of Women's Disempowerment in the 21st Century: Cyberfeminist and Cyberwomanist Theological Responses” American Academy of Religion Conference, Denver Colorado, November 2018. Session: Women’s Caucus AAR/SBL

- 2017 “I Only Roll With Goddesses”: Black Women as the Divine Feminine in Internet Subcultures and Digital Visual Culture.” Presentation at American Academy of Religion Conference, Boston, Massachusetts, November 2017. Session: Feminist Theory and Religious Reflection Unit.

- 2016 “WTH?!! H8U {People}!! - With Anti-Black Trolling, E-Bile, and Racist S!%#storms, Is a Love Praxis Possible in Mediatized Worlds?” Presentation at American Academy of Religion Love.

“Conjuring the Diasporic African American Past for the Present: Reality TV Genomics, the Remediation of Collective Memory, and the Hegemonic Hijacking of Black Identities.” Presentation at American Academy of Religion Conference. San Antonio, Texas, November 2016. Co-Sponsored Session: Religion, Media, and Culture Group and Religion, Memory, History Group.

“Is Digital Activism Shifting the Gendered Politics of U.S. Black Struggle? The Increasing Visibility of U.S. African American Women and Same Gender Loving Activists on Social Media.” Presentation at 2016 Consultation of African and African-Diasporan Women in Religion and Theology, Theme: “Say Her Name!: Africana Women as Interpreters, Healers and Revolutionaries.” Spelman College, Atlanta, Georgia, July 2016.

“Digital Activism Workshop I and II.” Workshops facilitated at 2016 Consultation of African and African-Diasporan Women in Religion and Theology, Theme: “Say Her Name!: Africana Women as Interpreters, Healers and Revolutionaries.” Spelman College, Atlanta, Georgia, July 2016.

- 2015 “Burn This B!%#@ Down! Protest Space, Apocalyptic Envisioning, and Media Representations of Racial Unrest in Ferguson, Missouri.” American Academy of Religion Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, November 2015. Presentation for the panel, From Post-Apartheid Cape Town to Post-Racial Ferguson: Black Death, Public Protests, and the Recasting of White Shamelessness.

- 2014 “Backyard Gardens as Sacred Spaces: An Emerging Research Agenda of Spiritual Ecology for Ecowomanism.” American Academy of Religion Conference, San Diego, California, November 2014. Presentation for the panel, Ecowomanism 101: A Roundtable Discussing Vital Themes and Trajectories.
- 2013 “Imagineering Geneatopia: Genomic Heterotopias and Biologized Blackness in the PBS African American Lives Series.” Second Annual Ways of Knowing Conference. Science, Religion, and Culture Program at Harvard Divinity School, Boston, Massachusetts, October 2013.

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

2024-2028 Board of Directors, Ecowomanist C.I.R.C.L.E. (Center in Research, Climate Justice, Leadership and the Environment)

2021-2023, founding member of the Technology, Ecology, Religion and Art (TERA) Collective, <https://teracollective.com/>

2021-2024 Board of Directors, International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture.

2019-2023 Steering Committee Member, Religion, Media, and Culture Group, American Academy of Religion

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

AI and Faith

American Theological Librarian Association

American Academy of Religion

Network for New Media, Religion and Digital Culture Studies