

TERRI LAWS, PhD

University of Michigan-Dearborn
Associate Professor
African and African American Studies
College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters
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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy, Religious Studies, Rice University, Houston, TX
Master of Arts, Rice University, Houston, TX
Master of Divinity, Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta, GA
Bachelor of Business Administration, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH

TEACHING AND INSTRUCTIONAL EXPERIENCE

University of Michigan-Dearborn

Associate Professor, with tenure, 2022-present
Assistant Professor, 2015-present. Tenure-track faculty on 9000 racially-, ethnically-, class, and religiously diverse student campus. Courses include introduction to Africana Studies, Detroit history and culture, African American religious experience, medical sociology, medical ethics, Womanist religious thought.

Wayne State University

Guest Faculty, 2015-2018. Affiliate faculty with ReBUILDetroit. Multi-year, multi-million-dollar NIH-funded pipeline diversity initiative to train undergraduates in research related to biomedical fields. Detroit-area multi-campus collaborative. Topics: introduction to health disparities (summer bridge students), social implications of clinical research and health disparities.

University of Detroit Mercy

Interim Director, African American Studies Program and Instructor, Religious Studies, 2013-2015. Full-time faculty at 5000-student urban Jesuit/Mercy institution with a mission commitment to urban populations and social justice. Campus programming and growth and development of interdisciplinary academic program. Teaching portfolio included introductory to upper-level courses in African American Studies (AAS 2000), health care ethics (ETH 3580), social and cultural history of African American religious experience (such as “Black Theologies” RELS 3370), and religious studies (RELS 2000).

Rice University

Communications Consultant, Center for Written, Oral and Visual Communication, 2012-13. Assess students’ oral and written communications and presentations to assist them in the development of a plan to improve their effectiveness. Work with students in various disciplines.

Guest Lecturer: “163r Spotlight on Religious Studies,” Susanne M. Glasscock School of Continuing Studies, April 4, 2012. Talk: “African American Religion and Clinical Trials: A Case Presentation in Religion and Health.”

TEACHING EXPERIENCE, continued

Rice University, continued

Teaching Assistant: “RELI 340/539 Theology in Africa” Faculty: Elias K. Bongmba
Responsible for developing and delivering assigned lecture modules, assisting students in understanding fundamental concepts, and ensuring availability of course materials. Spring 2012.

Teaching Assistant: “RELI 157/311 Religion and Hip Hop” Faculty: Anthony B. Pinn and Bernard Freeman. Responsible for developing and presenting assigned lecture modules; developing and facilitating weekly discussions of course materials in on-line format; assisting in grading of examinations; holding office hours; communicating with students regarding course requirements. Spring 2011.

Guest Lecturer: “ANTH 319 Symbolism and Power” Lecture: “Pathologized and Criminalized Mothers” Faculty: Amy Ninetto. March 2009. Responsible for lecturing on reproductive rights and state powers to encourage and limit these rights in the interest of state powers and aims. Planned module classroom activities including incorporating current events and video to reinforce assigned readings.

Guest Lecturer: “ANTH 381 Medical Anthropology” Lecture: “Race, Health, and Clinical Research” Lecture module ANTH 381 Medical Anthropology. Faculty: Beverly Mitchell. October 2008. Responsible for assigning topical readings, developing, and delivering lecture module on history of race in U.S. medical research and contemporary health disparities, and the role for religion and religious institutions in these matters.

Interdenominational Theological Center

Teaching Assistant: “THE (Theology, History, and Ethics) 621 - Ethics and Society.” Ethics concepts in the Western and Christian traditions. Faculty: Riggins R. Earl, Ph.D., 2006-07. Responsible for assigned class facilitation, assisting in grading examinations in course on ethics concepts in the Western philosophical and Christian traditions.

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

Research In-Development

Terri Laws, *(De)Gentrifying Death, Democratizing Life: African American Religion in the U.S. Culture of Health and Medicine* (working title). Manuscript examining the operation of African American religious culture and experience within U.S. biomedical culture. Under contract.

In Print

Terri Laws. “Christian Transhumanism in Context: The Relevance of Race.” In *Bioenhancement Technologies and the Vulnerable Body: A Theological Engagement*. Edited by Devan Stahl. Waco: Baylor University Press, 2023.

Terri Laws. *Black Women’s Yoga History: Memoirs of Inner Peace* by Stephanie Y. Evans. SUNY Press, 2021. *Nova Religio* vol. 26 no.4 (May 2023), pp. 135-137.

Terri Laws. “Carlin’s *Pastoral Aesthetics*: Bioethics, “Do We Want to Be Made Well?” Invited review essay on Nathan Carlin’s *Pastoral Aesthetics: A Theological Perspective on Principlist Bioethics*. *Pastoral Psychology* vol. 70, no. 6, 2021, pp. 585-594.

Terri Laws. “How Should We Respond to Racist Legacy in Health Professions Education Originating in the Flexner Report?” *AMA Journal of Ethics*, March 2021. Invited essay.

Terri Laws, “Medical Innovation, Conventional Theology” in *T&T Clark Handbook of Christian Theology and Modern Sciences*. Edited by John Slattery. London: T&T Clark, 2020: 249-260. Invited.

Terri Laws and Kimberly R. Enard. “‘I AM that I AM’: The Religion of White Rage, Great Migration Detroit, and the Ford Motor Company” in *Religion of White Rage: White Workers, Religious Fervor, and the Myth of Black Racial Progress*. Edited by Stephen C. Finley, Lori Martin, and Biko Mandela Gray. Edinburgh University Press, 2020, 58-72.

Lacey, Krim, Dawne M. Mouzon, Regina N. Parnell, **Terri Laws**. “Severe Intimate Partner Violence, Sources of Stress and the Mental Health of US Black Women” *Journal of Women's Health* August 18, 2020 (online), <https://doi.org/10.1089/jwh.2019.8215>

Terri Laws, “Tuskegee as Sacred Rhetoric: The Focal Point for the Emergent Field of African American Religion and Health” *Journal of Religion and Health* vol. 57, no. 1 (2018), 408-419.

Enard, Kimberly R., **Terri Laws**, and Keith Elder. "Health Services and Health Policy Research" in *Public Health Methods for Partnerships and Practice*. Ed. by Melody Goodman and Vetta Sanders Thompson. New York: Routledge/Taylor & Francis Group UK, 2017. ISBN 978-1498785068. 2017: 258-279.

Terri Laws, *Shapeshifters: Black Girls Matter*. *Michigan Journal of Community Service Learning*. vol. 23, no.2 (Spring 2017): 131-135.

Co-author, CERCL Writing Collaborative. *Breaking Bread, Breaking Beats: Churches and Hip-Hop, A Basic Guide to Key Issues*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2014.

Terri Laws, W. Duncan Wadsworth, Michael O. Emerson, “‘Making Babies’: Religion, Moral Diversity, Abortion, and Human Genetic Engineering.” *Portraits of American Life Study* (PALS). White paper. June 2013.

Book note. *Ethics That Matters: African, Caribbean, and African American Sources*. Edited by Marcia Y. Riggs and James Samuel Logan. *Religious Studies Review*. vol. 39, no. 2 (June 2013), 91.

Terri Laws and Janice Chilton, “Ethics, Cultural Competence, and the Changing ‘Face of America’.” *Pastoral Psychology*. Special issue on Social Justice and the Health Professions: Ethical and Experiential Issues. vol. 62, no. 2 (April 2013): 175-188.

Book note. *Reclaiming the Body: Christianity and the Faithful Use of Modern Medicine* by Joel Shuman and Brian Volck. *Religious Studies Review* vol. 36, no. 2 (June 2010): 138-9.

Book note. *The Elusive Dream: The Power of Race in Interracial Churches*, by Korie L. Edwards. *Religious Studies Review* vol. 35, no.4 (December 2009): 298-299.

Stephen Finley and Terri Laws, “Christian Methodist Episcopal Church” in *The Encyclopedia of African American Religious Cultures*, Edited by Anthony B. Pinn. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO. (2009), 136-143.

Stephen Finley and Terri Laws, “Progressive National Baptist Convention” in *The Encyclopedia of African American Religious Cultures*, Edited by Anthony B. Pinn. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO. (2009): 330-338.

Web-based Publications

“Race, Religion, and Physician Assisted Suicide,” *Religion & Politics*, the online news journal of the John C. Danforth Center for Religion & Politics, Washington University in St. Louis, September 2019. Invited essay.

“Cultural resources for World AIDS Day/First Day of Advent” in *The African American Lectionary*, on-line at <http://www.theafricanamericanlectionary.org/>. November 2010.

“Cultural resources for Pastoral Installation” in *The African American Lectionary*, on-line at <http://www.theafricanamericanlectionary.org/>, January 2010.

United Methodist Church” in *The Encyclopedia of African American Religious Cultures*, Edited by Anthony B. Pinn. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO. (2009), 412-421.

“Cultural resources for Economic Justice Sunday” in *The African American Lectionary*, on-line publication, April 2009.

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Presentations

African American Religion and Xenotransplantation. Panelist, Religion, Ethics, and Xenotransplantation. 30th International Congress of The Transplantation Society, Istanbul, Türkiye, September 2024.

Michigan Medical-Aid-in-Dying Presentation. University of Detroit Mercy School of Nursing and College of Health Professions. Detroit, MI. April 10, 2024.

Black Bioethics, Panel coordinator and presenter. Society for the Study of Black Religion. Conference Theme: "Economies of Black Bodies: Medicine, Music, Memory, and Black Religion" Nashville, TN, March 21-23, 2024.

“Who We Were. Who We Are.” Black History Month Commemoration Speaker. Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs. February 29, 2024. (virtual)

“(De)Gentrifying Death: Black Religion and Death with Dignity Health Policy Development.” 2024 Advancing Health Care Equity Speaker Series and Paul and Marie Castelfranco Lecture Series. University of California, Davis. Sacramento, CA. February 28, 2024.

“(De)Gentrifying Death.” Columbia University Seminar on Death. Faculty House, Columbia University, New York, NY, May 10, 2023.

“Keynote: Race, Religion, and Spiritual Considerations in Aid in Dying.” With Tracey Bush, Regional Practice Leader, End of Life Option Act Program, Kaiser Permanente, Southern California. National Clinicians Conference on Medical Aid in Dying. Portland, OR, February 18, 2023.

“Covid-19 and Black Community Trust in Science,” Center for African American History and Culture, Virginia Union University, Richmond, VA, April 1, 2021. (virtual)

“Religious Responses to Covid Roundtable,” Society for the Study of Religion and Rock Institute, Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA, February 12, 2021. (virtual)

“Religion and Rationality: Race, and Medical Research, and Yes, Reparations, Even in a Pandemic.” Swope Endowed Lectureship on Ethics, Religion, Faith, & Values, University of the Puget Sound, Tacoma, VA, February 11, 2021. (virtual)

“How Race Matters...” National Clinicians Conference on Medical Aid in Dying, University of California, Berkeley, February 15, 2020. (virtual)

Humanities in Medicine Lecture Series, The Trent Center for Bioethics, Humanities & History of Medicine, Duke University School and School of Medicine and seminar speaker for Theology and Medicine Initiative, Duke University School of Divinity, Durham, NC, October 2019

“Bioethics and Communities of Color: Medical Research and Reparations” ReBUILDetroit, University of Detroit Mercy, Detroit, MI, Community Speaker Series, May 2019

“Controlling Death?: From Questions, Toward Community,” Harvard Medical School, Center for Bioethics, Annual Bioethics Conference, “Controlling Death? The Policies, Practices, and Ethics of Choosing When We Die,” Boston, MA, April 2019
ReBUILDetroit, Lab Coat Ceremony, Keynote speaker, Detroit, MI, May 2017

“Black Religion, Cancer Patients, and Bioethics Basis,” 13th Annual Health Disparities Workshop: Working Toward Social Justice, Houston, TX, June 2015.

Conference Presentations

“I Don’t Care How Much You Know, Until I Know How Much You Care”: Religion, Subjugated Knowledge, and the Flint Water Crisis,” American Academy of Religion, Bioethics and Religion Group, San Antonio, TX, November 2016.

“*Lean(ing) In* on Personal Salvation and Symbolic Social Justice, Paper for Panel: “Should We All ‘Lean In’ (More)?: Four Female Administrators at a Catholic University Take on Sheryl Sandberg’s Approach to Women and Leadership,” National Association of Women in Catholic Higher Education, Seattle University, June 2014.

“Religion and the Color Line,” Colleague Day, University of Detroit Mercy, April 2014

“The Tuskegee Syphilis Study as ‘Sacred Rhetoric’,” American Academy of Religion, Bioethics and Religion Group, Baltimore, MD, November 2013.

“The Tuskegee Syphilis Study as ‘Sacred Rhetoric’?” University of Detroit Mercy, African American Studies Program Public Lecture, November 2013.

Terri Laws, Janice A. Chilton, Colleen Gallagher, Richard Hajek, and Jessica Anne Moore, “Promoting Minority Participation in Ethics Clinical Practice and Research,” Biennial Symposium on Minorities, the Medically Underserved and Health Equity: Empowering Communities in the Era of Health Care Reform, Houston, TX, June 29, 2012.

“Embodiment, Religion, and Justice in Medical Research: Sexually-Transmitted Disease, Race, and Class in the Late Twentieth Century,” Symposium on Religion and Embodiment: Theory, Research, and Pedagogy, Centre for Religion and Contemporary Society, University of Kent, Canterbury, England, May 7-8, 2012.

Janice A. Chilton, Colleen Gallagher, Richard Hajek, Jessica Anne Moore, and Terri Laws, “Bioethics Initiative for Equity in Health Care and Research,” Advancing Ethical Research Conference, Poster Session, Programmatic Activity, Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research (PRIM&R), National Harbor, MD, December 2011.

Terri Laws, Janice A. Chilton. “Ethics, Cultural Competence, and the Changing ‘Face of America’: Reducing Health Disparities.” Conference: Social Justice and the Health Professionals: Ethical and Experiential Issues, University of Texas Medical School at Houston, Houston, TX, June 2011.

“Agency or Surrogacy?: Race, Class, and Gender in Medical Research Recruitment” American Academy of Religion, Bioethics and Religion Group, Chicago, IL November 2008.

"Medical Metaphoric Language in the African American Context: Toward Healing Theodicy" Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion (Southeastern Regional Conference of the American Academy of Religion), Atlanta. March 2006

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

Invited

Michigan Death with Dignity Act: Public Education, Conversations on Race. Minority Health Month Presentation. Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Detroit, MI. April 15, 2024.

Detroit Public Television, “The Black Church Watch Party” A One Detroit Facebook Live Event. February 1, 2021.

Interviewee for “Race, Faith, and Health Justice.” Religion and Public Life Program, Rice University, Zoom interview by Rachel Schneider, December 10, 2020.

“Race and Health Care: A Matter for Ethics Committee Education and Research?,” Ethics Committee, Henry Ford Hospital, May 11, 2016.

Panelist, “Color Blind or Color Brave?,” Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Breakfast, Race Relations and Diversity Task Force, Birmingham Community House, Birmingham, MI. January 19, 2015.

Panelist, “Practical Considerations for Clinical Trial Decision-Making.” Fourth Annual Prostate Cancer Symposium, Plenary Panel: Cultural Barriers to Clinical Trial Participation Karmanos Cancer Institute, Detroit, MI, September 2014.

PRESS

Terri Laws and Ciara Reyes-Ton. “Terri Laws: Caring for the Humanity in Others” Interview with BioLogos, June 3, 2022. <https://biologos.org/articles/terri-laws-caring-for-the-humanity-in-others>

University of Michigan-Dearborn News. “Vaccine hesitancy: A side effect of systemic racism” *Reporter*, January 13, 2021. <https://umdearborn.edu/news/all-news/articles/vaccine-hesitancy-side-effect-systemic-racism>

Bunn, Curtis. 'It's been shattering': Heartache and hope in America's Black churches' NBC News, December 23, 2020. <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/nbcblk/it-s-been-shattering-heartache-hope-america-s-black-churches-n1252099>

University of Michigan-Dearborn News, “What would a ‘just’ rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine look like?” *Reporter*, December 2, 2020. <https://umdearborn.edu/news/articles/what-would-just-rollout-covid-19-vaccine-look>

Spratling, Cassandra. “Coronavirus attacks Detroit church leadership.” *Detroit Free Press*, June 15, 2020. <https://www.freep.com/in-depth/news/local/michigan/2020/06/15/critical-time-covid-19-attacks-detroits-black-church-leadership/5320331002/>

HONORS, AWARDS, GRANTS

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation New Connections Bi-Annual Symposium. Competitive travel and training cohort mini-grant invitation. Multidisciplinary quantitative and qualitative scholars working

in the culture of health. Methodology training to help researchers understand how to share their research beyond journal articles. Philadelphia, PA. 2018.

University of Michigan-Dearborn M-Cubed grant. Principal investigator C. Burke. Co-principal investigator T. Laws. Green Community Organization Database. Funding to develop database of southeast Michigan community organizations working in environmental justice issues (including water access). 2016.

Lodieska Stockbridge Vaughn Fellowship. School of Humanities awardee. Competitively awarded to five current graduate students “whose record at Rice shows evidence of outstanding achievement and promise.” 2013-14. (declined)

Graduate Student/Ethics Fellow, Dorothy I. Height Center for Health Equity and Evaluation Research. University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston TX. Research trainee appointment. 2012-13.

Bioethics Research Fellowship, Bioethics Initiative for Equity in Health Care and Research. University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX. Interdepartmental collaboration between Section of Integrated Ethics and Department of Health Disparities Research. 2010-11; 2011-12. Supported by Award Number RC2MD004764 from the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities.

Teaching Certificate (elective professional development), Rice University, 2012

Provost’s Fellow – Rice University, 2007-2012

Doctoral Fellow – Fund for Theological Education, 2007-08; 2008-09

UNIVERSITY/PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

University of Michigan - Dearborn

Campus Service

Member, Committee, Michigan State University College of Human Medicine Early Assurance Program, 2020-present. Faculty participant that evaluates UM-D applicants for program endorsement.

“Using the *Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* in the Classroom: A Panel Presentation for the First UM-D Community Read,” Panel participant, April 2019

University Commencement Faculty Processional, April 29, 2018

UM-D Spring Open House, Mock Course: “Wakandan Ethics,” April 21, 2018. Co-instructor, Timothy Carter, AAAS 300 student.

Faculty participant, Admitted Student Reception Panel, March 6, 2018

Faculty Senate Council, Representative, College of Education, Health, and Human Services
January 2018-June 2018; October 2018-2019

Faculty Senate, Senator, College of Education, Health, and Human Services, January – June 2018; October 2018-2019.

Provost’s Committee on Graduate Programming by Junior Faculty. April and October 2016.

Honor’s Transfer Program Re-design/Talent Gateway Launch. May – September 2016.

College Committees

College of Arts, Science, and Letters, Dean's Budget Task Force, 2022
College of Arts, Science, and Letters, Dean's Task Force on Problem-Based Learning, 2021
College of Arts, Science, and Letters, Academic Integrity Board, 2019-present
College of Arts, Science, and Letters, Dean's Task Force on Faculty Service, April 2019

Departmental and Program Committees

African and African American Studies Programming, on-going
Women and Gender Studies Curriculum Committee, College Wide Programs, 2018-present
Women and Gender Studies Professional Development Grants, College-Wide Programs, 2016-2018
Participant and presenter, Soul of Success (S.O.S) AAAS Study-Faculty Retreat, March 23-24, 2018
Search Committee, Assistant Professor, Health and Human Services – Social Work, June 2016-October 2016

University of Detroit Mercy

University Retention Committee. 2014-2015
Spirituality and Meaning Core Curriculum Review Team. 2014-2015

Rice University

Office of Institutional Effectiveness, Student Assistant. 2012-13
Analyze documents from academic departments to identify student level learning outcomes, draft program level outcomes for deliberation and development by department faculty.

Portraits of American Life Study Research Team, 2012 - 13

Michael O. Emerson, Co-director, Kinder Institute for Urban Research, Professor of Sociology. Lilly Endowment-funded on-going study of social life in the U.S. Topics include religious beliefs and practices, racial attitudes, and health. Conducted respondent interviews; authored white papers.

Graduate student panelist. "Applying to Graduate School and Surviving in the First Year." Black Graduate Student Association, September 2012.

Invited discussant, manuscript consultation. *Religion: A Comeback on Campus*. John Schmalzbauer and Kathleen Mahoney. Religion and Public Life Program, Rice University, November 2011.

Graduate Representative, Executive Committee, Southwest Commission on the Study of Religion, Southwestern Regional Association of the American Academy of Religion, 2010-11; 2011-12.

Invited discussant, manuscript consultation. *Paging God: Religion in the Halls of Medicine*. Wendy Cadge. Religion and Public Life Program, Rice University, December 2010.

Graduate Assistant, Society for the Study of Black Religion. 2009-10.

Graduate Assistant, Houston Enriches Rice Education (H.E.R.E.) Project (now the Center for Engaged Research and Collaborative Learning, Rice University 2007-2012.

Interdenominational Theological Center

Student Assistant, Black Women in Church and Society, Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta. 2005-2007.

PROFESSIONAL/COMMUNITY SERVICE

Ethics Advisory Group, Bon Secours Health System, Member, 2017 - 2019

Ethics Committee, Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit, Michigan, Public Member, 2014 - 2017

National Black Leadership Initiative on Cancer. Houston, TX, June 2010.

Reviewer, "Abiding Presence: Faithful Living at the End-of-Life." A denominational pastoral guidebook of the Presbyterian Church (USA), Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy, 2015.

"Health Ministry 101: Developing a Congregational Health Ministry." Presenter. DeKalb County Health Department, Decatur, GA. November 2005

SYNERGISTIC ACTIVITIES

Conference invitee, "Future Humans-Human Futures," Virginia Tech Research Institute. Arlington, VA, June 2023.

Inaugural Inclusive Excellence Faculty Fellow, Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Office of the Chancellor. 2022-2023.

Consultant, Vaccine Religious Exemption, Confidential Healthcare Organization, 2021

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Goodwill Industries of the Southern Piedmont, Charlotte, NC. Associate Vice President, Workforce Development Division. 1999-2003

Training and human services division leadership team. Responsible for assisting in the development of grant proposals and service sales proposals to business organizations. Directed implementation of electronic clinical documentation system. Responsible for selecting, directing, and developing reporting staff and operating policies and procedures.

Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, Cincinnati, OH. 1986-1999.

Held various administrative positions at top-ranked academic medical center. Including Director, (community-based) Primary Care Network; Director, Medical Records; Management Assistant, Hospital Operations; Human Resources Associate for Compensation. Also, responsible for developing enterprise-wide customer satisfaction measurement and customer service training programs. Inaugural diversity committee member.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Co-chair, Bioethics and Religion Group, American Academy of Religion. Term: 2019-2024.
Member, Society for the Study of Black Religion. Elected 2012