



Janel M. Curry

Call for Papers

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.56315/PSCF12-22Curry>

Science, Faith, and Feminism

Janel M. Curry

Call for Papers

Readers are encouraged to take up an insight or question in the following invitation essay, and draft an article (typically about 5,000–8,000 words) that contributes to the conversation. These can be sent as an attachment to janel.curry1@gmail.com. An abstract should be included in the text of the email. The best essays will go on to peer review and the potential for publication in a Science, Faith, and Feminism theme issue of *Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith*, or independently in a variety issue of *PSCF*.

The lead editorial in the December 2021 issue of *PSCF* outlines what the journal looks for in the articles we publish. For best consideration for inclusion in the theme issue, manuscripts should be received electronically before March 31, 2023.

Looking forward to learning from your contributions,

James C. Peterson, *Editor-in-Chief*

The American Scientific Affiliation lives at the intersection of science and faith. Founded in 1941, the eighty years of the organization have spanned great change in society in the waves of feminism that have gone from calls for equity in the 1960s to the introduction of the Equal Rights Amendment in 1972 and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, to discussions about power dynamics after the Anita Hill incident of 1991, to organization structural analysis that has come with the starting of the “Me Too” movement in 2006.¹ Research and discussion about the role of women in science have been present in these waves.

Margaret Rossiter, in her three volumes on *Women Scientists in America*, traces the struggles of women over time across multiple disciplines.² The recent NOVA film, *Picture a Scientist*, depicts the challenges that continue, along with the added barriers for women of color.³ The theolog-

ical reflection in North America among Christians on the role of women has been extensive and increasingly shaped by women themselves. These years have involved extensive theological work on the role of women in church, home, and society. Attention to this in *PSCF* has been limited.⁴

More recently, several works have gained prominence that particularly focus on the context within the evangelical community, to which ASA has traditionally belonged, has viewed women. *Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation* by Kristin Kobes Du Mez has remained on the *New York Times* Best Seller list for weeks.⁵ Likewise, in her book *The Making of Biblical Womanhood: How the Subjugation of Women Became Gospel Truth*, historian and theologian Beth Allison Barr brings the scholarly lens of her insights from medieval history to reflect on her own experiences.⁶

Another area of discussion since the 1980s has been that of a feminist

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epistemology of knowledge. One of the first books to reflect on the role of gender in being a scientist was *Reflections on Gender and Science* by physicist Evelyn Fox Keller.⁷ This work, and many that followed, argued that women’s experiences brought creative and different ways of approaching research and knowledge-creation.

If one searches epistemology, gender, and science today, one finds a myriad of books and articles. Most recently, research has even shown that the physical presence of women influenced research results; an example of this involves a recent study of ketamine’s effects on mice.⁸ Caroline Perez, in her book *Invisible Women: Data Bias in a World Designed for Men*, addresses both the absence of women in constructing research approaches and the resulting narrowing of the accuracy of data from scientific studies in terms of its application.⁹

This call for papers then is focused on concerns and perspectives that might draw these strains together: How do different approaches to science and faith interact with the roles of women? How have science-related Christian organizations understood the intersectional areas of women and science? Do questions related to epistemology and faith have parallels with epistemology and gender? Can a sociological understanding of society help us understand the ways that faith, science, and different feminist traditions interact? How does our understanding of each of these—science, faith, and feminism—enrich the others? ▶

Notes

- ¹Karen A. Foss, Sonja K. Foss, and Alena Amoto Ruggerio, *Feminism in Practice* (Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press, 2022).
- ²Margaret W. Rossiter, *Women Scientists in America: Before Affirmative Action 1940–1972* (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1995); Margaret W. Rossiter, *Women Scientists in America: Struggles and Strategies to 1940* (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1982); and Margaret W. Rossiter, *Women Scientists in America: Forging A New World since 1972* (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2012).
- ³NOVA, *Picture a Scientist*, Uprising Production, 1:37 (2020), accessed August 9, 2022, <https://www.pictureascientist.com/>.
- ⁴A few examples include Rodney J. Scott and Raymond E. Phinney Jr., “Relating Body and Soul: Insights from Development and Neurobiology,” *PSCF* 64, no. 2 (2012): 101–2, <https://www.asa3.org/ASA/PSCF/2012/PSCF6-12Scott.pdf>; Jerry Bergman, “The History of Evolution’s Teaching of Women’s Inferiority,” *PSCF* 48, no. 3 (1996):

164–79, <https://www.asa3.org/ASA/PSCF/1996/PSCF9-96Bergman.html>; James C. Peterson, “Feminism, Ethics, Science, and Technology,” *PSCF* 47, no. 3 (1995): 196, <https://www.asa3.org/ASA/PSCF/1995/PSCF9-95Peterson.html>.

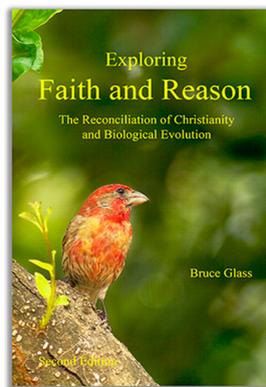
⁵Kristin Kobes Du Mez, *Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation* (New York: Liveright Publishing, 2020).

⁶Beth Allison Barr, *The Making of Biblical Womanhood* (Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2022).

⁷Evelyn Fox Keller, *Reflections on Gender and Science* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1986).

⁸Shawna Williams, “Sex of Researcher Influences Ketamine’s Effects in Mice: Study,” *The Scientist: Exploring Life, Inspiring Innovation*, September 8, 2022, accessed September 18, 2022, <https://www.the-scientist.com/news-opinion/sex-of-researcher-influences-ketamine-s-effects-in-mice-study-70468#:~:text=The%20team%20reported%20in%20an,to%20work%20as%20an%20antidepressant.>

⁹Caroline Criado Perez, *Invisible Women: Data Bias in a World Designed for Men* (New York: Abrams Press, 2019).



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