



# Crossing the Line:

## Women of Anabaptist Traditions Encounter Borders and Boundaries

**June 22-25, 2017**

**vfh** *Explore the Past,  
Discover the Future*  
Virginia Foundation for the Humanities



Eastern  
Mennonite  
University

Harrisonburg, Virginia  
[emu.edu/crossing-conference](http://emu.edu/crossing-conference)

Photos: (left) Mennonite Library and Archives, Bethel College, North Newton, KS; (center) Engraving by Jan Luiken in *Martyrs Mirror*, v. 2, p. 30 of Dutch edition, source: Rijksmuseum; (right) Virginia Mennonite Conference Archives, I-V-1c, Box 3, K-Ser

# CONFERENCE INFO

General questions can be directed to.....awcrossingtheline@gmail.com

## CONFERENCE CONTACTS

Campus Security ..... 540-432-4911  
Kimberly Schmidt ..... 301-448-0950  
Mary Sprunger ..... 540-236-8691  
Transportation (shuttles) ..... 888-774-9368 or jacob.lester@emu.edu

## EMERGENCY

Ambulance, fire, police (from campus phone) .....9- 911  
Sentara Rockingham Memorial Hospital ..... 540-689-1000  
2010 Health Campus Drive, Harrisonburg  
Emergicare..... 540-432-9996  
755 Cantrell Ave, Harrisonburg

## WI-FI ACCESS FOR CONFERENCE

network: EMU  
username: guest123  
password: Wxv92Prc7hg

## FOOD

Conference participants are welcome to eat in EMU's dining hall (ground floor of Northlawn). Prices: breakfast \$6, lunch \$7, dinner \$8

## BUILDING HOURS

Art Gallery (Margaret Martin Gehman Gallery): .... Thurs, 1-11 p.m., Fri-Sat 8 a.m-11 p.m.  
Bookstore (UC): .....Mon-Fri, 9 a.m-4 p.m.  
Campus Center (ATM\*): .....Thurs-Sat, 8 a.m-6 p.m. and Sun, 8 a.m-noon  
Common Grounds Lounge (UC): ..... Fri. 6-11 p.m., Sat 3-11 p.m.  
Dining Hall (Northlawn): .....Thurs 5:45-6:30 p.m.  
Fri-Sat 7:30-8:15 a.m.,12-12:45 p.m., 5:45-6:30 p.m.  
Fitness Center (UC) (\$5 daily use fee): ..... Mon-Fri, 7 a.m-7 p.m. and Sat, 9 a.m-1 p.m.  
Library (Menno Simons Historical Library): .....Mon-Fri, 9 a.m-5 p.m.  
Post Office (CC): ..... Mon-Fri, 9 a.m-noon  
Seminary: .....Fri, 8 a.m-9 p.m. and Sat, 8 a.m-5 p.m.  
University Commons (ATM\*): .....Thurs-Sat, 8 a.m-11 p.m.

*\*ATM's are located in the Campus Center across from the Post Office Window and in the University Commons 2nd floor near bookstore.*

## BUILDING KEY

Campus Center (CC), University Commons (UC), Library (LB), Seminary (SB)

# Crossing the Line:

Women of Anabaptist Traditions Encounter Borders and Boundaries

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## WELCOME

Welcome to *Crossing the Line: Women of Anabaptist Traditions Encounter Borders and Boundaries*. "Crossing" is a dynamic concept. It recognizes that women and men are active agents in sustaining and enlarging their communities. New topics, approaches, theoretical frameworks and viewpoints invite further examination of the construction of gendered experience within groups who claim an Anabaptist tradition.

*Crossing* builds upon the success of *The Quiet in Land? Women of Anabaptist Traditions in Historical Perspective*. Held in 1995, in Millersville, Pennsylvania, *The Quiet in the Land?* was the first conference that focused on the experience of women of Anabaptist traditions. The conference received widespread attention in North American and European Mennonite communities and from scholars of women's experience and religious and rural farm history. The bi-national Planning Committee of *Crossing*, recognizing that Anabaptist-related churches in Asia, Africa and Latin America far outnumber those in Europe or North America, made a special point of inviting scholars and practitioners from the Global South. We also encouraged younger scholars to participate and sought inclusion of marginalized voices of overlooked communities in North America.

The history of Anabaptist groups is not just for Amish and Mennonites. Old Order and traditional groups particularly attract attention from scholars and tourists and those interested in their religious beliefs and lifestyle choices. Beyond the curious glances, it is helpful to remember that European Anabaptist groups, like so many others, came to North America seeking religious freedom. Their history is integral to the histories of religious dissent in Early Modern Europe; immigration to the New World; the transition from agrarian to commercial, industrial and now technological economies; and the dynamic relationship between faith traditions and secularism in Western society. More recent Mennonite history reflects the impact of globalization on local culture and ethno-religious communities, not just in North America but around the world.

We welcome all voices to this conference with the expectation that engaging in both critical and celebratory examinations will strengthen not only our collective academic and artistic endeavors but also our communities.

**Kimberly D. Schmidt and Mary S. Sprunger**  
**Eastern Mennonite University**  
*Planning Committee Co-Chairs*

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

## THURSDAY, JUNE 22

**1-5:45 p.m.**

**Conference Registration and Lodging Check-In**  
*CC Greeting Hall*

*For those arriving later, registration will be available before and after the Plenary Session I in the University Commons*

**1-11 p.m.**

**Crossing the Line Art Exhibit**  
*Margaret Martin Gehman Art Gallery, UC*

**2-6:45 p.m.**

**Mennonite Women in the Shenandoah Valley History Tour and Dinner**

*Led by Mary S. Sprunger (Pre-registration required). Board bus in UC parking lot at 1:45 p.m. for 2 p.m. departure; ticket will be in registration packet.*

**5:45-6:30 p.m.**

**Dinner in cafeteria**  
*Northlawn lower level*

**7-9 p.m.**

**Plenary Session I**  
*Mainstage Theater, UC  
 (please enter from south entrance)*

Welcome, **President Susan Schultz Huxman**, Eastern Mennonite University Introduction and Announcements, **Kimberly Schmidt** and **Mary S. Sprunger**, Eastern Mennonite University, Conference Planning Committee Co-Chairs

**Keynote speaker: Hasia Diner, New York University**, "Jewish Women in America: A History of Their Own." This session will explore how Jewish women, like Mennonite women, had a singular history shaped by religion/ethnicity, place, and gender.

**9-10 p.m.**

**Crossing the Line Art Exhibit Opening and Reception**

*Margaret Martin Gehman Art Gallery and Common Grounds, UC*  
 Remarks by curator **Rachel Epp Buller**, Bethel College

## FRIDAY, JUNE 23

**7:30-8:15 a.m.**

**Breakfast in the cafeteria**  
*Northlawn lower level*

**8 a.m.-1:30 p.m.**

**Conference Registration**  
*CC Greeting Hall*

**8 a.m.-11 p.m.**

**Crossing the Line Art Exhibit**  
*Margaret Martin Gehman Art Gallery, UC*

**8:30-10 a.m.**

**Concurrent Sessions**

**1. Literary Women: The Lines They Cross**

**SB 123**

*Chair: Ann Hostetler, Goshen College*

"Queering Tradition in Jessica Penner's *Shaken in the Water*," **Daniel Shank Cruz**, Utica College

"Bad Mennonites, Usable Truths, and Other Misreadings: Julia Spicher Kasdorf, Grace Jantzen, Sofia Samatar, and Mennonite Stories," **Jeff Gundy**, Bluffton University

"Writing a Mennonite Woman's Life: Alta Elizabeth Schrock, 1911-2000," **Julia Spicher Kasdorf**, Pennsylvania State University

**2. Lines of Memory and Encounter on the "Mission Field"**

**CC 226**

*Chair: Paul Yoder, Eastern Mennonite University*

"I Was the Kind of Women Whom the Culture Expected': The Experience of Mennonite Missionary Women in Ethiopia," **Joel Horst Nofziger**, Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society

"Mennonite Brethren Missionary Women Encounter Dalit Women in Colonial South India," **Yennamalla Jayaker**, Mennonite Brethren Centenary Bible College

"Gendered Historical Memory, Tanzania Mennonite Church Women and the East African Revival, 1940s-50s," **Jan Bender Shetler**, Goshen College

### 3. War and Boundary Crossing CC 105

Chair: **Kimberly Schmidt**,  
Eastern Mennonite University

"Boundary Crossings in Times of War: Two Mennonite Women's Diaries, 1920-1970," **Diane Zimmerman Umble**, Millersville University

"Immigration Bans and Immigrant Trauma: A Family Case Study of Post-World War I Canada," **Marlene Epp**, Conrad Grebel University College

"From East to West: Post-World War II Prussian Mennonite Migration and Fundamental Changes in Leadership for Mennonite Women," **Nils Martin**, Eastern Mennonite University

### 4. Boundaries of Families Revisited CC 229

Chair: **Holly Scott**,  
Eastern Mennonite University

"Singleness, Sisterhood, and Parenting Children with Disabilities," **Lyubov Slashcheva**, University of Iowa College of Dentistry

"Living More with More: How to Survive Infertility, Twins, and a Bonus Chromosome, or Thank God for the Casserole Bearers," **Kirsten Beachy**, Eastern Mennonite University

"The Personal is Still Political: Mennonite Women Write about their Fathers," **Mary Ann Loewen**, University of Winnipeg

### 5. Gender Justice in the Global South CC 201

Chair: **Anne Effland**, Myersville, MD

"Anabaptism and Ecofeminism: Women Food Producers in the Global South," **Royden Loewen**, University of Winnipeg

"Gender Justice in Colombia: An Anabaptist Imperative," **Mónica Velásquez**, Asociación Pacto Colombia/DIGNI and **Alíx Lozano**, Bogata, Colombia

(Simultaneous interpretation provided by *Andrés Pacheco Lozano*)

10-10:30 a.m.  
Coffee break  
CC Greeting Hall

10:30 a.m.-noon  
Concurrent Sessions

### 6. Crossing into Worldliness: Leaving the Amish Community CC 201

Chair: **Anne Effland**, Myersville, MD

"Stepping Out 'Into the World' and Developing a Voice," **Saloma Miller Furlong**, Sunderland, MA

"To Cross or Not to Cross: How Four Generations of One Family's Amish Women Faced 'The Line,'" **Esther Stenson**, Eastern Mennonite University

"Overcoming the Past and Forging New Identities in Memoirs by Ex-Amish Women," **Sabrina Voelz**, Leuphana University

### 7. Shifting Tides: Women Leaders in the Brethren in Christ Tradition CC 226

Chair: **Nancy Heisey**,  
Eastern Mennonite University

"Conflict, Conversion and Call: H. Frances Davidson and Brethren in Christ Mission," **Lucille Marr**, McGill University

"War, Zimbabwe, and Sithembile Nkala, an Early BIC Minister," **Wendy Urban-Mead**, Bard College

"From Minister's Wife to Ordained Pastor: The Evolving Status of Women in the Brethren in Christ Church in North America, 1950-1990," **Devin C. Manzullo-Thomas**, Messiah College

### 8. European Anabaptist Women Make their Mark

CC 105

Chair: **Kimberly Schmidt**,  
Eastern Mennonite University

"The Role of the Prophetess: An Opportunity to Cross Boundaries?"  
**Christina Moss**, University of Waterloo

"Austrian Anabaptist Women of Status: The Case of Bartlmae Dill Riemenschneider's Family, 1527-1550,"  
**Linda Huebert Hecht**, Waterloo, ON and  
Hanns-Paul Ties, Bozen, Italy

"By the Hand of a Woman: Antje Brons and the Origins of Mennonite History Writing," **Ben Goossen**, Harvard University

### 9. Art, Migration and (Home)making: Mennonite Women, Mexico and "the World"

SB 123

Chair: **Rachel Epp Buller**,  
Bethel College

A panel on creative work by and about women from Mennonite colonies in northern Mexico on the themes of transnational migration, identity and gender.

Poetry: **Abigail Carl-Klassen**, Seminole, TX

Non-fiction: **Anna Wall**, St. Jacobs, ON

Visual art: **Veronica Enns**, Chihuahua Area, Mexico

### 10. Is the State a Sword? Gender, Justice, and Peace Theology

CC 229

Chair: **Kathy Evans**,  
Eastern Mennonite University

"Is the State a Sword?: Gender, Justice and Peace Theology," **Janna L. Hunter Bowman**, Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

"Church, State and Sexualized Violence: Peace Theology Informed by Mennonite Survivors," **Hilary Scarsella**, Vanderbilt University

"Parallel Gendered Experiences in Military and Mennonite Encounters," **Lisa Schirch**, Eastern Mennonite University

Noon-12:45 p.m.

Lunch in the cafeteria  
Northlawn lower level

1:30-3 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

### 11. Inside/Outside Boundaries: Maintaining, Nudging, Crossing

CC 201

Chair: **Tiffany Cole**,  
James Madison University

"Crossing and Keeping Boundaries: Mennonite Women's Organizations in the Past One Hundred Years," **Anita Hooley Yoder**, Notre Dame College

"Nudging the Line: Women's Stories of Subtle Social Change," **Holly Scott**, Eastern Mennonite University

"Plain and Simple: The Debate Over Swiss Mennonite Headcoverings in Ontario, 1910-1930," **Laura Morlock**, University of Waterloo

### 12. Feminist Theologies at the Center and the Margins

CC 226

Chair: **Peter Dula**,  
Eastern Mennonite University

"Toward a More Life-giving Understanding of Salvation," **Linda Gehman Peachey**, Lancaster Theological Seminary

"The Gentrification of the Margins," **Emily Ralph Servant**, University of Manchester

"A Renewed Theology of Suffering: Liberating the Politics of Jesus from Voluntary Subordination," **Elizabeth Soto Albrecht**, Lancaster Theological Seminary

### 13. Gender Identities and Leadership CC 105

Chair: **Kathy Evans**,  
Eastern Mennonite University

"Finding a Home: LGBTQ Mennonite Leaders and Denominational History,"  
**Rachel Waltner Goossen**, Washburn University

"Wisdom on the Edges: Hearing the Voices of LGBTQ Women in Mennonite Church Canada," **Irma Fast Dueck**, Canadian Mennonite University

"'Love to All': Bayard Rustin's Effect on Attitudes toward LGBTQ Issues in South-Central Kansas Mennonites," **Melanie Zuercher**, Bethel College

### 14. Cross Cultural Crossings: Personal Reflections CC 229

Chair: **Reta Halteman Finger**,  
Eastern Mennonite University

"Finding Self: One Woman's Journey from Missionary to Spiritual Seeker,"  
**Gladys Loewen**, Vancouver, BC and  
**Sharon Loewen Shepherd**, Fort Scott, KS

"The Wisdom of Difference: World Religions," **Dorothy Yoder Nyce**, Goshen, IN

"A Mennonite Girl from Harlem: Transforming Self and Society," **Melody Pannell**, Eastern Mennonite University

### 15. Artists Working across Memory and Media SB 123

Chair: **Scott Jost**, Bridgewater College

"Uncertain Boundaries: Memory, Michigan and Mennonite 'Maust-ness,'" **Gloria Diener and Marge Maust**, Harrisonburg, VA

"When Words Aren't Enough: A Creation Myth Narrated by Poetry, Paint and Forever Stamps," **Becca J.R. Lachman**, Athens, OH

"Crossing Boundaries of Memory and Documentation: An Artistic Exploration," **Rachel Epp Buller**, Bethel College

3-4:30 p.m.

#### Book Fair and Reception:

#### Campus Center Greeting Hall

Authors display, sell, and sign books (cash or checks accepted; ATM available)

5:45-8 p.m.

#### Conference banquet featuring Indian food, followed by Plenary Session II Martin Chapel

(Pre-registration required) "Overcoming Barriers and Building Empowerment: Stories of Anabaptist Women in India," **Cynthia Peacock**, South Asia Representative for Mennonite World Conference

*Those wishing to attend just the lecture may arrive at 6:45.*

6-11 p.m.

#### Common Grounds Lounge open for conversation, relaxing and concessions.(cash only)

8:30-10 p.m.

#### Poetry Reading:

**Jean Janzen, Becca J. R. Lachman** and open mic (MC **Julia Spicher Kasdorf**)  
*MainStage Theater, UC*

#### Original Performed Reading:

"I Will Cross Lines: A Live Narration of The View from a House in Kansas, Acts 1 to 5," **Teresa Pankratz**, Chicago, IL  
*Studio Theater, UC*

*Poetry Book Fair immediately following in Common Grounds (cash or check)*

## SATURDAY, JUNE 24

7:30-8:15 a.m.

#### Breakfast in the cafeteria Northlawn lower level

8 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

#### Conference Registration CC Greeting Hall

8 a.m.-11 p.m.

#### Crossing the Line Art Exhibit Margaret Martin Gehman Gallery, UC

8:30-10 a.m.

**Concurrent Sessions****16. Amish and Conservative Women's Narratives of Self**

CC 201

*Chair: Evie Yoder Miller, Milton, WI*

"Old Order Amish Women Writing Themselves," **Vi Dutcher**, Eastern Mennonite University

"Going Dutch: Narrative and Gendered Analyses of Joining and Remaining in the Faith," **Beth E. Graybill**, Dickinson College

"Extending Medieval Rhetorical Spaces as Conservative Mennonite Women Minister in Prison," **Kyle Gerber**, University of Waterloo

**17. Stepping into Church Leadership**

CC 226

*Chair: John Roth, Goshen College*

"Unsung Heroines Strive to Cross Boundaries Despite Limits and Limitations: BICC Women in Southern Africa," **Barbara Nkala**, Harare, Zimbabwe

"The Mennonite Brethren Practice of Discerning a 'Call to Ministry': Learning from the Experiences of Mennonite Brethren Women," **Kathy McCamis**, Winnipeg, MB

"Crossing the Boundaries of Prejudice, Stereotype, and Expectation: The Journey of a Korean Mennonite Woman in North America," **Jessie Hyejung Yum**, Toronto School of Theology

**18. Peacebuilding in Gendered and Racial Spaces**

CC 105

*Chair: Rosalind Andreas, North Newton, KS*

"If Black Lives Matter: Considering Implications of BLM Activism on a Mennonite College Campus," **Christine Crouse-Dick** and Jennifer Chappell Deckert, Bethel College

"Documents and Documentation: Collaborative Writings on Immigration in the U.S.," **Raylene Hinz Penner**, Topeka, KS, with Elisabet Barrios and Elsa Goossen

"She Sets a Table Before Me in the Presence of My Enemies: Anabaptism, Women and Revolutionary Hospitality in South Africa," **Karen Suderman**, Harrisonburg, VA

**19. Family Stories of Crossings**

CC 229

*Chair: Luann Good Gingrich, York University*

"Thinking Back through Our Mothers," **Lynette Sarah Plett**, Winnipeg, MB

"Writing in the Women: A Mennonite Pilgrimage from Alsace to Alberta and Back Again," **Ann Hostetler**, Goshen College

"Representing 'It's Complicated': Family Secrets and Genealogical Pursuits in the Lives of Two Mennonite Women," **Lauren Harder-Gissing**, Conrad Grebel University College

10-10:30 a.m.

**Coffee Break**

CC Greeting Hall

10:30-Noon

**Plenary Session III**

MainStage Theater, UC

**Sofia Samatar**, James Madison University, "In Search of Women's Histories: Crossing Space, Crossing Communities, Crossing Time"

Noon-12:45 p.m.

**Lunch in the cafeteria**

Northlawn lower level

1:30-3 p.m.

**Concurrent Sessions****20. Memoirs of Coming and Going**

CC 229

*Chair: Kirsten Beachy, Eastern Mennonite University*



"Crossing the Line: A Personal Story,"  
**Miriam Frey**, Paris, ON

"Standing where the Worlds Come Together," **Eileen Kinch**, Ephrata, PA

Dramatic reading from the author's new memoir, *The Fog of Faith*, **Leona Stucky**, Santa Fe, NM

## 21. The Universal Boundaries of Silence and Voice

CC 226

Chair: **Jan Shetler**, Goshen College

"Expected Decorum/Silence and Speaking out: Experiences from KMT," **Esther Muhagachi**, Kanisa la Mennonite Tanzania

"Empowering Girls and Women with Education," **Pamela Obonde**, Kenya Mennonite Church

"Ages and Ages Hence: A Conservative Mennonite Woman's Hidden Desire for Education," **Hope Nisly**, Fresno Pacific University

## 22. The Quest: Being Female, Mennonite, and an Artist in New York City

SB 123

Chairs: **Jessica Penner**, Bronx, NY and **Jennifer Sears**, Brooklyn, NY

**Julia Spicher Kasdorf**, Poet, Pennsylvania State University

**Linda Kamille Schmidt**, Visual Artist, Brooklyn, NY

**Katherine Yoder**, Fashion Designer, Harrisonburg, VA

## 23. The Silenced Stories of Mennonite Women's Lives

CC 105

Chair: **Heidi Winters Vogel**, Eastern Mennonite University

"You Can Use My Story, but not My Name: Telling the Untellable," **Doreen Helen Klassen**, Grenfell Campus, Memorial University of Newfoundland

"Naming the Violence Within: The 'Body Politics' of Abuse in Amish and Conservative Mennonite Households," **Carolyn Stauffer**, Eastern Mennonite University

"We All Picked': *Dietsche Women and Gendered Reproductive Work*," **Luann Good Gingrich**, York University and **Kerry Fast**, Toronto, ON

## 24. Literary and Musical Memoirs

SB Martin Chapel; 1:30-3:15 p.m.

Chair: **Ken Nafziger**, Eastern Mennonite University

"Oral History," **Connie Braun**, Trinity Western University

"Reluctantly Yours: Marriage, Divorce and the Mennonite Family," **Jessica Smucker**, Lancaster, PA

"Songs for my Mother--Miriam L. Weaver, a Woman Who Lived beyond Boundaries," **Carol Ann Weaver**, Conrad Grebel University College, with **Marge Maust**, Harrisonburg, VA vocalist (45 minute performance)

3-11 p.m.

**Common Grounds Lounge open for conversation, relaxing and concessions** (cash only)

3-6:45 p.m.

**Mennonite Women in the Shenandoah Valley History Tour and Dinner**  
Led by **Mary S. Sprunger** (Pre-registration required). Board bus in UC parking lot at 1:45 p.m. for 2 p.m. departure; ticket will be in registration packet.

5:45-6:30 p.m.

**Dinner in cafeteria**  
Northlawn lower level

7-7:45 p.m.

**A Panel of Voices Reflecting on Conference Learnings**  
MainStage Theater, UC

**8-9:30 p.m.**

**Crossing Dance Cultures: An Exploration of Race and Nationalism in Washington, DC: Modern Dance**

*Mainstage Theater, UC*

**Katrina Toews**, Director, The Washington Ballet@THEARC

## SUNDAY JUNE 25

**8-9:30 a.m.**

**Continental Breakfast**  
*CC Greeting Hall*

**8-11 a.m.**

**Lodging Check-Out**  
*CC Greeting Hall*

Those leaving early may return keys in the drop boxes at the front and rear exits of Northlawn

**9 a.m.-noon**

**Conference attendees are encouraged to visit a local Mennonite church.**

In close proximity to EMU are Park View Mennonite Church (9:30 a.m.) and Shalom Mennonite Church (10 a.m.). Also in and near Harrisonburg: Community Mennonite Church (9 a.m.), Ridgeway Mennonite Church (9:30 a.m.), Harrisonburg Mennonite Church (8:30 or 11 a.m.), Immanuel Mennonite Church (10:30 a.m.), New Song Anabaptist Fellowship (10 a.m.) and Weavers Mennonite Church (10:30 a.m.).

## PLENARY SPEAKERS:

**Dr. Hasia Diner**

At New York University, Dr. Hasia Diner is professor of Hebrew and Judaic studies and history; Paul S. and Sylvia Steinberg professor of American Jewish history; director, Goldstein-Goren Center for American Jewish History; and director of undergraduate studies. She has authored over 10 books and several articles on the intersection of gender, religion and 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century immigrant communities in the United States. Much of her work centers on Jewish populations, but she

is also widely recognized for her work on gender systems and Irish and Italian immigrants and for her significant contributions to understanding the histories of women in ethno-religious immigrant communities. She was recently named one of twenty most influential historians in the United States.

**Cynthia Peacock**

Cynthia Peacock, from Kolkata, India, worked for Mennonite Central Committee for 38 years in many capacities, including social work, women's empowerment, relating to Mennonite churches in India, serving in the Global Family program, and helping with integrated development projects. Since 2010 she has been involved with Mennonite World Conference, currently serving as the South Asia representative for India and Nepal. She is a deacon in her United Missionary congregation (a member of MWC) and is the women's leader of the Bharatiya Jukta Christa Prachar Mandali, a conference of 104 congregations. Peacock has two children and three grandchildren.

**Dr. Sofia Samatar**

James Madison University assistant professor of English, Dr. Sofia Samatar is of European Mennonite and Somali heritage. Her father, a Somali historian and writer, and her mother, a Swiss-German Mennonite school teacher, lived in several locations around the world; Samatar grew up a world citizen. She graduated from a North American Mennonite high school and college before earning a PhD at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She speaks several languages, including Arabic, Swahili and Zande, and specializes in contemporary African and Arabic literature. She is the recipient of various writing awards including The British Fantasy Award for Best Novel, the World Fantasy Award, the John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer and the Crawford Award.

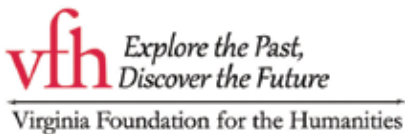
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## PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Thank you to the following for the time and commitment devoted to planning this conference.

- Rachel Epp Buller, Bethel College
- Marlene Epp, Conrad Grebel University College, University of Waterloo
- Kerry Fast, Independent Scholar
- Luann Good Gingrich, York University
- Rachel Waltner Goossen, Washburn University
- Julia Spicher Kasdorf, Pennsylvania State University
- Kimberly D. Schmidt, Eastern Mennonite University
- Jan Bender Shetler, Goshen College
- Mary S. Sprunger, Eastern Mennonite University

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- Lee and Del Snyder
- Harry Anthony Brunk Memorial Fund, Menno Simons Historical Library, EMU
- D.F. Plett Historical Research Foundation
- Raylene Hinz Penner and Douglas Penner
- Marpeck Fund
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# CAMPUS MAP



Eastern  
Mennonite  
University

Harrisonburg, Virginia  
[emu.edu/crossing-conference](http://emu.edu/crossing-conference)