



Crossing the Line: Women of Anabaptist Traditions Encounter Borders & Boundaries
Preliminary Program (Eastern Mennonite University June 22-25, 2017)

Thursday, June 22

Thursday 1:00-5:00PM

Conference Registration and Lodging Check-In

Thursday 2:00-6:30PM

[Mennonite Women in the Shenandoah Valley History Tour and Dinner](#) On this bus tour with stops for input and interaction, learn about the Civil War and segregation eras, women educators and entrepreneurs, and Harrisonburg's thriving immigrant community today. Visit an Old Order Mennonite school and church.

Pre-registration required. Space limited on a first-come, first-served basis. \$45 fee includes family-style dinner in Old Order Mennonite home and admission to Valley Brethren-Mennonite Heritage Center.

Thursday 5:00-6:30PM

Dinner in cafeteria

Thursday 7:00-9:00PM

[Opening and Plenary Session I](#): 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.

Thursday 9:00-10:00PM

[Crossing the Line Art Exhibit Opening and Reception](#) with remarks by curator **Rachel Epp Buller**, Bethel College

Friday, June 23

Friday 7:00 - 8:30AM Breakfast in the cafeteria

Friday 8:30 - 10:00AM

Concurrent Sessions

1. Literary Women: The Lines They Cross

"Queering Tradition in Jessica Penner's *Shaken in the Water*," **Daniel Shank Cruz**, Utica College; "Bad Mennonites, Usable Truths, and Other Misreadings: Julia Kasdorf, Grace Jantzen, Sofia Samatar, and Mennonite Stories," **Jeff Gundy**, Bluffton University; "Writing a Mennonite Woman's Life: Alta Elizabeth Schrock, 1911-2000," **Julia Kasdorf**, Pennsylvania State University

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

"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 with Dalit Women in Colonial South India," **Yennamalla Jayaker**, Mennonite Brethren Centenary Bible College, India; "Gendered Historical Memory, Tanzania Mennonite Church Women and the East African Revival, 1940s-50s," **Jan Bender Shetler**, Goshen College

3. War and Boundary Crossing

"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

"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

"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

Friday 10:00-10:30AM Coffee break

Friday 10:30-Noon	Friday 10:30-Noon	Friday 10:30-Noon	Friday 10:30-Noon	Friday 10:30-Noon	Friday 10:30-Noon
Concurrent Sessions	<p>6. Crossing into Worldliness: Leaving the Amish Community "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</p>	<p>7. Shifting Tides: Women Leaders in the Brethren in Christ Tradition "Conflict, Confession, and Conversion: A Gendered Analysis of H. Frances Davidson's Conviction and Call to Brethren in Christ Mission, 1880-1898," 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.</p>	<p>8. European Anabaptist Women Make their Mark "The Role of the Prophetess: An Opportunity to Cross Boundaries?" Christina Moss, University of Waterloo; "Austrian Anabaptist Women of Status: The Case of Bartlme 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</p>	<p>9. Art, Migration and (Home)making: Mennonite Women, Mexico and "the World" A panel on creative work by and about women from 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</p>	<p>10. Is the State a Sword? Gender, Justice, and Peace Theology "Is the State a Sword?: Gender, Justice and Peace Theology," Janna L. Hunter Bowman, Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary; "Theological Implications of the Role of the Justice System in Light of Mennonite Queer and Women's Survivors," Hilary Scarsella, Vanderbilt University; "Parallel Gendered Experiences in Military and Mennonite Encounters," Lisa Schirch, Eastern Mennonite University</p>
Friday Noon-1:30PM	Lunch in the cafeteria				

Friday 1:30-3:00PM

Concurrent Sessions

<p>11. Inside/Outside Boundaries: Maintaining, Nudging, Crossing "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</p>	<p>12. Feminist Theologies at the Center and the Margins "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</p>	<p>13. Gender Identities and Leadership "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</p>	<p>14. Cross Cultural Crossings: Personal Reflections "A Multi-Layered Peace: A Mennonite Woman Encounters Catholic Ireland," Dawn Nelson, Souderton, PA; "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</p>	<p>15. Artists Working across Memory and Media "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</p>
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Friday 3:00-5:30PM

Break

Friday 5:30-8:00PM

Conference banquet featuring Indian food, followed by **Plenary Session II: "Overcoming Barriers and Building Empowerment: Stories of Anabaptist Women in India,"** Cynthia Peacock, South Asia Representative for Mennonite World Conference

Pre-registration for banquet required (\$20); space limited on a first-come, first-served basis.

Friday 8:30-10:00PM

Poetry Reading: Jean Janzen, Becca J. R. Lachman and open mic

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

Saturday, June 24

Saturday 7:00-8:30AM Breakfast in the cafeteria

Saturday 8:30-10:00AM

Concurrent Sessions

16. Amish and Conservative Women's Narratives of Self

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

17. Stepping into Church Leadership

"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 Cultural Expectation: The Journey of a Korean Mennonite Woman Pastor," **Jessie Hyejung Yum**, Toronto School of Theology

18. Peacebuilding in Gendered and Racial Spaces

"We Demand: An Examination of Responses to the #BETHELLIVESMATTER Movement," **Christine Crouse-Dick**, 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. The Shifting Spaces of Low German Mennonite Women

"Transcending Digital Borders: The Role of Texting in the Construction of Low German-speaking Mennonite Space," **Christine Kampen Robinson**, University of Waterloo;
"Migration, Religious Distinction and the Paradox of Self-exclusion: Low German Mennonites in Canada," **Luann Good Gingrich**, York University and **Kerry Fast**, Toronto, ON
"Daughters in the City: Mennonite Maids in Vancouver, 1931-61," **Ruth Derksen**, University of British Columbia

20. Family Stories of Crossings

"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," **Laureen Harder-Gissing**, Conrad Grebel University College

Saturday 10:00-10:30AM Coffee break

Saturday 10:30-Noon **Plenary Session III:** Sofia Samatar, James Madison University, "In Search of Women's Histories: Crossing Space, Crossing Communities, Crossing Time"

Saturday Noon-1:30PM Lunch in the cafeteria

Saturday 1:30-3:00PM

Concurrent Sessions

<p>21. Memoirs of Coming and Going "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, <i>The Fog of Faith</i>, Leona Stucky, Santa Fe, NM</p>	<p>22. The Universal Boundaries of Silence and Voice "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</p>	<p>23. The Quest: Being Female, Mennonite, and an Artist in New York City Julia Spicher Kasdorf, Poet, Pennsylvania State University; Linda Kamille Schmidt, Visual Artist, Brooklyn, NY; Katherine Yoder, Fashion Designer, Harrisonburg, VA; Chairs: Jessica Penner, Bronx, NY and Jennifer Sears, Brooklyn, NY</p>	<p>24. The Stories and Silences of Sexual Abuse "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</p>	<p>25. Literary and Musical Memoirs "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, vocalist (45 minute performance; session may go until 3:15)</p>
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Break

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Saturday 5:00-6:30PM

Dinner in cafeteria

Saturday 7:00-7:45PM

[Wrap-Up/Responding to What We Have Heard](#)

Saturday 8:00-9:30PM

[Crossing Dance Cultures: An Exploration of Race and Nationalism in Washington, DC and Moscow](#): Modern Dance and Ballet Performances, **Katrina Toews**, Director, The Washington Ballet@THEARC, **Bianca Navari**, Bolshoi Ballet Academy. Introduced by Kimberly Schmidt.

Sunday June 25

Sunday 8:00-9:30AM Continental Breakfast

Sunday 8:00-11:00AM Lodging Check-Out

Sunday 9:00-12:00 Conference attendees are encouraged to visit a local Mennonite church. In close proximity to EMU are Park View Mennonite Church (9:30AM) and Shalom Mennonite Church (10:00AM).