

Sexuality-Related Centers at Seminaries

The **Carpenter Program in Religion, Gender, and Sexuality** at Vanderbilt University Divinity School was started in 1996 to foster conversation about religion, gender, and sexuality. The program seeks to provide education through events, course offerings, and conferences as a way to “encourage communication within and across religious affiliations, ideological bases, and cultural contexts.” The program administers a certificate in Religion, Gender, and Sexuality.

<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/divinity/carpenter/>

The **Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies in Religion and Ministry (CLGS)** at the Pacific School of Religion was started in 2000 to “advance the well-being of the LGBT community and to transform faith communities and the wider society by taking a leading role in shaping a new public discourse on religion and sexuality through education, creative scholarship, research, community building, advocacy, and presenting a new public voice in the debate over sexual identity through media outreach and coalition building.” The center provides courses, events, on-line resources, and training. The center also offers a certificate in Sexuality and Religion.

<http://www.clgs.org/>

The **Center for Sexuality and Christian Life (CSCL)** at the Claremont School of Theology was established to “foster intellectual inquiry and open dialogue within the Church and other interested religious communities on the complex issue of human sexuality and seeks to prepare leaders to know and understand human sexuality and the ways that it is important in the Church, the academy, and the world.” The center maintains a collection of sexuality-based resources. CSCL began in the early 1990s, but was reconstituted in 2004 as a forum for discussing issues of sexuality particular to the Methodist tradition, but also within the wider Christian community through gatherings at the seminary and advocacy work within communities.

http://www.cst.edu/current_students/cscl.php

The **Institute for Judaism & Sexual Orientation (IJSO)** at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR) provides Jewish leadership to “change congregational attitudes and policies toward inclusion of each and every Jew, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity among the organizational arms of the Reform Movement.” IJSO was established in 2005 and has become an online resource for all four Hebrew Union College campuses including a web-based learning site, events, and resources for translation, ritual, and worship.

<http://elearning.huc.edu/jhvrc/>

Isha El Akhota: The Women’s Center at the Jewish Theological Seminary was founded to support the religious, academic, and professional needs of JTS’s diverse women’s community. When JTS began admitting female Rabbinical students in 1984, students created the center, which was later endowed, allowing for a space and programming. With the 2007 admission of Lesbian and Gay students to the Rabbinical school, the center has broadened its programming and advocacy efforts to include sexual orientation and identity issues.

<http://www.jtsa.edu/x1701.xml>

Kolot: The Center for Jewish Women's & Gender Studies at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College started 12 years ago to “bring insight and innovative practices from the study of gender and Judaism to the Jewish community, in addition to offering courses, pastoral education, and faculty education.” The center runs a certificate program in Jewish Women's Studies with Temple University. The center provides a variety of online resources including a syllabi collection and ritual and ceremonies website (<http://www.ritualwell.org>).

<http://www.kolot.org>

The **LGBTQ Religious Studies Center** at Chicago Theological Seminary was founded in 2006 as a “theological think tank and a resource for activists.” It houses the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Religious Archives Network (began by CTS in 2002), a resource for students and researchers studying the history of LGBT religious movements (<http://www.lgbtran.org/>). The center explores “critical issues in theology and ethics from a LGBTQ perspective” including support of new faculty scholarship, hosting events, promoting religious voices in the media, and curricular evaluation. The center supports a Certificate in Theological Education with a Concentration in LGBTQ studies.

<http://www.ctschicago.edu/academic/LGBTQ.php>

Women IMAGES (Women in Ministry at Garrett-Evangelical Seminary) at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary was founded in the late 1970s to provide “community and educational opportunities for women and seeks to create a nonsexist context for theological education.” The center has been influential in articulating a need for women faculty and curricular change to address a variety of women's issues.

<http://www.garrett.edu/content.asp?A=5&C=20158>

The **Women's Studies in Religion Program (WSRP)** at Harvard Divinity School began in 1973. WSRP promotes “critical inquiry into the interaction between religion and gender. It sponsors research and teaching in feminist theology biblical studies, ethics, and women's history, as well as interdisciplinary scholarship on women throughout the world's religions.” The program annually supports five visiting research associates in the development of new primary research. That research is dispersed through courses, publications, and events. The Women, Gender, Sexuality and Religion degree focus at Harvard Divinity School is not directly supported by the center, but its courses and events complement the offering.

<http://www.hds.harvard.edu/wsrp/>

*All quotations are taken from centers' websites.